



Daring to remake



Shunning extravagant stage decorations for more meaningful movements and heavy classical costumes for something lighter, Jean-Christophe Maillot lets his dancers set the stage. The French choreographer and director of Les Ballets de Monte Carlo wowed Beijing ballet fans years ago with his new Romeo and Juliet. This time, he is back with modern retellings of Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella.

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The search for Miss Laowai

The search is on for a beautiful foreign woman with a good heart who can connect with the capital's disadvantaged groups.



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Meet the new Guangzhou

To prepare for the upcoming Asian Games, Guangzhou has undergone rapid development and beautification to become the "Oriental Manhattan."

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get the boot
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Unqualified pilots prompt probe of aviation industry

By Han Manman

The country's 13,000 pilots are being put through background checks following news that more than 200 pilots, many of whom were employed by Henan Airlines, had falsified their flying records.

The fraud was discovered during a government investigation of Henan Airlines' August 24 crash that killed 42, according to a report released by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC).

More than half of the pilots who falsified their records worked for Shenzhen Airlines, which holds a 51 percent stake in Henan Airlines, according to the report.

Many who faked their records were ex-military fighter jet pilots who had either lied about or exaggerated their number of hours spent flying larger aircraft, according to the report.

Li Jiaxiang, director of the CAAC, said at Monday's news conference that the lack of qualified pilots and captains was to blame for last month's deadly crash on the outskirts of Yichun in Heilongjiang Province.

Qi Quanjun, the captain who survived the disaster, lacked experience and qualifications, he said.

The CAAC has launched a further probe into pilots' qualifications. The broader investigation will examine others involved in the aviation industry, including flight trainers, airline investigators, repair crews and air traffic controllers.

He said most of the pilots with questionable records have been grounded and will be required to



The government launches an investigation of pilots, ground crew and air traffic controllers.

CFP Photo

take examinations to reassess their abilities as pilots.

The *Global Times* quoted an anonymous employee at Shenzhen Airlines who said many of the pilots bribed officials and used family connections to escape detection and secure good positions.

The source said that some 170 pilots had fudged their flying histories, "but only three pilots were punished and suspended from flying, as Shenzhen Airlines was in desperate need of pilots early in its development."

The findings came as a heavy blow to the nation's fast-growing aviation sector and fueled longstanding outrage about safety issues.

"It's shocking to hear that pilots fudged their resumes. Those pilots are taking passengers' lives into their hands," said Chen Jie, a woman who flies often for business trips.

"The rapid expansion of China's civil aviation requires more commercial pilots, and the gap is usually filled by pilots who trans-

fer from flying military aircraft to commercial flights," said Liu Weimin, an aviation expert at the Civil Aviation Management Institute of China.

"These pilots are very likely to falsify their history in the military, since it is hard to verify," he said. A fake history can ensure rapid promotion.

The *People's Daily* reported that some training schools, in an effort to make quick money, also faked students' resumes to push them out into the ranks of the employed.

One Beijing-based school was fined in 2008 for forging 85 students' records.

"The civil aviation administration should have caught the pilots who were faking their flying histories. If not, they are also to be blamed for their lack of supervision," Liu said.

"When a pilot applies for a certificate to fly commercial aircraft, his documents should be thoroughly checked by the administration. Random checks are essential to keep pilots honest," he said.

Gov turns to public for ideas to solve traffic

By Zhao Hongyi

The rising use of cars, lack of attention to traffic laws and public transportation's abuse of lanes for bicycles and pedestrians are the driving forces behind the capital's traffic woes.

Gilbert van Kerckhove, a Belgian who has lived in Beijing for three decades, enumerated the problems posed by increasing traffic at a panel discussion held earlier this month by the municipal traffic management bureau.

This month, the capital's rate of car ownership broke the 4.5 million mark, the bureau said.

"The average speed of automobiles in downtown Beijing is expected to fall to fewer than 15 kilometers per hour if nothing is changed before 2015," its report warned.

Traffic stagnation brings with it another problem: hazardous air pollution. Before 2008, Beijing made a great effort to keep the air clean by moving factories out of the downtown area and planting trees around the city.

While those efforts may have met their target for the Olympics, pollution is coming back with a vengeance. This time, private automobiles are to blame.

To ease the problem and find solutions, the bureau held three panel discussions calling on citizens, scholars, expats and others to contribute their ideas and suggestions.

"We must develop public transportation and impose higher conditions to slow down the rate of new vehicle ownership," van Kerckhove said.

He also suggested teaching traffic police about traffic laws and regulations so they can enforce them when managing traffic.

"Also, we should educate our children from kindergarten about the rules of the road and teach them to respect the law," he said.

Paulo Sergio Custodio, an independent consultant invited from Brazil, used his hometown of San Paul as an example.

"To control and limit the use of private cars, San Paul

imposed high taxes," Custodio said. "Car owners were also required to pay another 4,000 Brazilian reais (15,700 yuan) as a congestion tax."

Brazil also penalizes illegal parking with a fine of 200 reais. Fines increase by 200 reais for each repeat offense.

"Beijing can introduce these measures to strike at people who ignore traffic laws and regulations, and the fines collected can be used to improve public transportation and infrastructure," he said.

Public transportation, rational use of land, control of automobiles and measures to limit their presence in downtown areas are needed to cut down on pollution, the panel concluded.

The municipal traffic management bureau is preparing a "twelve-fifth initiative for traffic management in Beijing," which is scheduled to be in force from 2011 to 2015. Those interested can leave suggestions for the bureau at bjtgl.gov.cn or call 6831 7341.

Health authorities open hospital industry to foreign business

By Li Zhixin

Sources in the Ministry of Health (MOH) said several government sectors have reached a consensus to permit foreign investors to run a hospital with sole proprietorship in China.

The decision is the first substantial move to open the medical industry following the government's call for new talent in the field this February.

"It is not clear how much the policy will open, but once the government adopts more liberal policies the benefit should be obvious. Doctors and hospitals can be more rationally distributed to ensure everyone gets access to brilliant doctors," said Liu Hui, president of Beijing Elite Consulting.

Chindex International announced plans to expand its medical treatment service in China and will cooperate with Fosun Medicine on medical apparatus and instruments, *Chinese Business News* reported. Chindex's brand, United Family Hos-

pital, entered China as a joint venture with the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences in 1997.

Although the policy will allow foreign-backed hospitals to expand their business in the Chinese market and offer patients more choices for medical treatment, it can only play a complementary role in Chinese medical reform.

"It will bring little benefit to ordinary Chinese people, as foreign hospitals and joint-venture hospitals are too expensive," said He Jingbin, director of marketing at Beijing International SOS Clinic.

The greater health problem in need of reform is the tense doctor-patient relationship.

"If the core problem of separating medical service units from the government can't be resolved, any improvement of peripheral problems will be pointless," said Liu Guoen, director of the medical economic research center at Peking University.

Guanfu gift shops to save ailing museum

By Chu Meng

Lotus Lane, the cultural center of Houhai, has a new addition: a plain Chinese gift shop opened by Guanfu Classical Art Museum. The private museum – the first of its kind in China – is experimenting with a new business model as it prepares for its forced exit from Dashanzi.

Throughout most of the country, panda toys and plastic Great Walls dominate the shelves of tourist destinations. Few well-designed souvenirs express traditional cultural elements.

That's something museum owner Ma Weidu hopes to change with his new gift shop.



The first Guanfu Museum Art Shop is on Houhai's Lotus Lane.

Photos provided by Guo Yangyang

The Guanfu Classical Art Museum is scheduled for demolition as part of the Dashanzi Art Area redevelopment project. As it searches for a new home, museum owner Ma Weidu is experimenting with a new art shop at Houhai's Lotus Lane that opened last weekend.

The shop is the second store on the restaurant street. Its main offerings are natural and hand-made products with a unique connection to China's cultural identity.

"It is the Guanfu Museum's first attempt at spreading its brand" Ma said.

Franchising history

A coarse paper box contains three hand-made organic soaps. Each is scented using ingredients from traditional medicine such as wormwood, cypress, fleece flower root, red adzuki beans and ginger, and sells for 60 yuan.

"Expensive imported essential oils are extremely popular these days, but few people remember that their scents are already used in our herbal medicines. By making them into soaps, they retain some of their medicinal effects," shop manager and artistic designer Guo Yangyang said.

The shop also has red silk baby shoes, maifan mineral stones, incense sticks scented with water or cold plums and environmentally-friendly silk bags embroidered with names of the 24 days used to divide the solar year on the traditional Chinese calendar.

"If you have visited the museum, you can find its shadows in the products at the gift shop. They are all designed as artistic derivatives of our collection," Ma said.

The boxes and wrapping paper used in the shop bear a signature pattern of red Chinese lions on a blue background inspired by a Song Dynasty ceramic bowl Ma collected in the 1990s.

The pattern can also be found on the shop's scarves, which shimmer under modern lighting with a luxurious look similar to Hermes' signature product.

But it is strange that the gift shop would open so far from the museum.

Ma describes the decision as an adventure. While the location is more expensive, it also promises greater profits – something very important to the museum.

Spreading a brand

On a Tuesday night in September – hardly a peak business day in Houhai



Designer and shop manager Guo Yangyang

– some 50 visitors pass through the shop in the span of an hour. At times it is crowded.

The shop on Lotus Lane is Ma's first step in spreading his brand. Similar franchised shops are scheduled to open in Hangzhou, Harbin and Xiamen.

"Our brand 'Guanfu' can be used by nationwide franchisers. Five percent of their profits will be sent back to us to support the operation of the four Guanfu Museums, and the rest will belong to the franchiser," Ma said.

But Ma expects his franchisers to share a sense of value in Guanfu Museum and love traditional culture. After all, these shops exist to help the museum spread its mission.

"All in all, this is to be a tool to give more people access to the core of the museum collections. Most of the products in Guanfu museum shops cost between 20 and 300 yuan," Ma said.

As a private museum functioning without government support, these museum shops will become one of Guanfu's most important sources of income, he said.

Creating a foundation

The gift shop is not Ma's first attempt to salvage museum operations. As early as June 9, 2010, he had already established the Guanfu Culture Foundation.

Ma Zishu, former deputy director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, said museums are money-making units and are managed by NGOs in many countries. Most often they are managed by foundations that raise funds to manage and support the development.

Seeking to pursue a similar path, Ma Weidu created a trustee-based management system for Guanfu Museum in 2009.



Ma Weidu passed control of his collections to the Guanfu Culture Foundation on June 9.



The window of Guanfu Museum Art Shop

Each trustee was given a specific social responsibility to the museum.

In June, Ma declared the establishment of the Guanfu Culture Foundation and donated all the cultural relics he had collected for decades to the foundation council for their management.

"Establishing the foundation was necessary for the future development of the museum. I hope to retire after the museum is running on the right track under the foundation's management," Ma said.

Interested individuals and companies will be able to support the museum through donations to the foundation in exchange for naming rights to some museum structures.

Private museums came under the authority of the Beijing Municipal Civil Affairs Bureau in 2004, at which time they were classified as "privately-run, non-profit business units."

But even as non-profits, they face operational problems.

"Our legal status is the biggest obstacle, and I have repeatedly called for a change in the status of private museums," Ma said, speaking on CCTV Online in July.

His struggles are difficult to discuss with foreign counterparts, as most foreign countries classify their private museums as non-profit organizations or social organizations for the public welfare.

Many of China's private museum owners also lack sound management and policy support.

For its part, the government has acknowledged some of these problems and responded by forming the China Professional Commission of Private Museums on April 23. The commission is expected to play a supporting role that helps ailing museums reform their management and operations.

For the thousands of private museums that have spent years running in the red, it has been one of the few signs of hope.

The illusion of music festival success

By Wang Yu

When China's top music festival celebrated its 10th anniversary this year, many painted a bright picture for the industry's future. Even the most optimistic a decade ago would not have expected the 18 festivals held around the country last year.

This year there were even more, with nine events held in or around Beijing from July to September.

Even people outside the rock scene are considering these festivals fashionable. Many local governments are taking advantage of the publicity to boost travel.

But it would be easy to overestimate this success. Few festivals are well organized, and fans are complaining more than ever. While the festivals have good music, music alone doesn't make a festival great.

"My first festival experience in China was MIDI Festival in 2005 – three months after I came here. I didn't know there were such events in China before I came. I was amazed by the scene at the venue," said Archie Hamilton, managing director of Split Works, an entertainment company based in Shanghai.

That year marked MIDI's first time in Haidian Park; 40 artists and groups came to perform. It also raised the bar for organizing and production of all future festivals and brought more attention to the music scene – even some attention from authorities.

Modern Sky Record has also organized many successful festivals. After releasing several records to favorable reviews, the label dabbled in the festival industry by organizing Modern Sky Festival in 2007. Last year the label started a new brand – the Strawberry Festival in Tongzhou District. It also held the Great Wall Tanglewood Forest Music Festival from August 27 to 29.

"This time, IDG China Media and Tanglewood come to us to cooperate. Organizing a three-day outdoor event outside the city is much more complicated than organizing one in a park. We have to deal with issues like transportation and security," said Shen Lihui, founder of Modern Sky.

But beside MIDI and Modern Sky, few festivals have been so favorably received. With the industry growing so quickly, quality is the last thing on many promoters' minds.

Last year's InMusic Festival in Zhangbei county, Hebei Province was notable not only for the finale by the trip-hop legend Tricky, but also for its infamously poor organization. Many who made the trip felt cheated when the promised grassland turned out to be sandy soil. Many artists and media groups that attended could not find transportation back to the capital, or even to a hotel.

The event was held again last month only because organizers signed a 10-year contract with the local government.

The festival is part of a formulaic concept now embraced by eager counties nationwide: the local government offers a venue, sponsors offer money and organizers like MIDI and Modern Sky are left to solve everything else.

Sun Xiaohan, deputy secretary of Zhangbei county party committee, said that

despite its negative initial reception, the contract will continue as a yearly event. Zhangbei is banking on music to bring it tourism from Beijing.

Electric-rock band Pet Conspiracy wrote on its blog that music festivals in China have become "a dump yard." The band said it had taken part in more than 20 festivals so far this year. Aside from the events organized by Modern Sky and MIDI and the Zebra Festival in Chengdu, most of the organizers had no idea what they were doing.

"This idea that the scene is flourishing is actually an illusion. Music festivals are

"It's like a gold rush. Many people get into the industry without knowing what exactly it is."

the best stage for rock 'n' roll music, but the spirit is missing at all these festivals. Even the most ardent idealist will lose their dreams of trying to create a Glastonbury (music festival) in China when negotiating with sponsors and the government," said Charlotte Lan, a music critic.

"It's like a gold rush or playing the stock market. Many people get into the industry without knowing what exactly it is. I've heard many crazy stories about the artists being treated badly and with no respect. I worry that the last of professional organizers will cause security problems. Once something bad happens, it will scare the authorities and these events will be restricted," Hamilton said.

"But still I think this chaos is normal during the development of a festival industry. The bad ones will die off, leaving only those organizers who take it seriously," Lan said.

For festival-goers there is another problem: the lineups are starting to suck.

There were almost 100 festivals held in China this year. Except for a few stars brought in from the West, most festivals are just a rehash of the same faces.

"For many years, MIDI was doing its own thing until Modern Sky made music

festivals 'cool.' But people will get bored if they see the same lineups. I think Modern Sky has a good formula for making festival, but they can do better. We need someone who will do something else, to focus on new bands and better production," Hamilton said.

Fans want to see bands like Radiohead performing at the festival. But budget concerns make that impossible. Zhang Fan, president of MIDI Music School, said most income from the MIDI Festival still comes from ticket sales and sponsorship. But they are losing many sponsors since they refuse to allow the placement of huge logos on the main stage.

As a consequence, few festivals are profitable.

"What we sometimes forget is that ticket prices at the festivals in the West or Japan are much higher. A ticket to the Fuji Rock Festival is about 3,000 yuan. If people want the scene to be great, they can't let the festivals keep losing money," Hamilton said.

However, such prices are unacceptable to Chinese fans. Unlike Western audiences who might enjoy three days of "roughing it" outdoors, few Chinese fans are willing to brave the distance and adverse conditions. Most lack any of the basics needed for camping.

"Ticket sales will continue to be the main income for festivals in the future. It's a long-time run and I'm confident that everything will go on the right way in the end," Shen said.

"After all, we come for music. I still think a solid line up can attract the audience no matter whether it is held on a mountain, on a grassland or in a park," Lan said.

Most festivals abroad took 10 years to mature. Usually they break even for the first five years while figuring out what direction they will go.

In China, MIDI is remarkable for its raw rock style due to its choice of punk, heavy metal and hard rock bands. To many fans, it is the closest thing to the "true spirit of rock 'n' roll."

"I think the festival boom will die within two years and there will be no more than 10 festivals left in China. For a country with such a weak music scene, 10 is enough. It will take much longer to see a great festival with international impact like Glastonbury or Fuji Rock born here," Lan said.

The country's music industry has been growing since 2000.
CFP Photo



Well organized or not, singers enjoy the festivals.
CFP Photo



Every music festival attracts fans from across the country.



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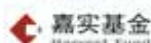


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Fall of expat executives

China's multinationals hire locals

By Huang Daohen

Gone are the days when a foreign degree, overseas work experience and basic Chinese skills were enough to land an expat a well-paid job.

A recent survey by the US-based Association of Executive Search Consultants showed that the number of expats in senior executive positions in emerging markets like China, India, Brazil and Russia has declined from 56 percent 10 years ago to 12 percent.



Expats in China face a shrinking job market.

Mai Tian/CFP Photo

Expat executives in emerging markets like China, India and Russia can be expensive, said a recent survey by the Association of Executive Search Consultants (AESC). Most are at least three or four times more expensive than their local competitors, considering the expense of relocation and a housing allowance.

"For that reason, Western companies competing in China are gradually reducing the number of Western executives and replacing them with local employees," said Kenny Jordan, executive director for the New York-based association.

AESC's survey followed the hiring activities of Fortune Global 500 companies in China, India, Brazil and Russia during the past 10 years and found that only 12 percent of the senior executives in those countries are expats.

The figure was 56 percent a decade ago.

Given this profound shift, Jordan said there will be a war for local management in emerging

markets, and only those who are able to hire the best will thrive.

Hao Jian, senior analyst with Zhaopin.com, one of the country's major online human resource providers, said he is seeing similar behavior.

Hao has specialized for years in recruiting for senior positions at multinational companies in China and knows well the cost of moving a manager from US to China.

Recruiting a hypothetical manager named "David" from an US company is very costly. If David is already making \$100,000 in the US, moving to China will require a percentage increase to compensate for the hardship of living abroad, Hao said. That increase can be around 45 percent.

David would also get business-class plane tickets back to the US twice a year, plus two periods of Rest and Recuperation in addition to paid vacations. The tickets to the US will run about \$4,000 each, so for him and his wife alone the expense is \$16,000 per year.

The next step is to find a place for David to live. "That's not cheap," Hao said. "It has to be the nicest possible house with many additional renovations bringing it up to Western standards." Such a flat in cities like Beijing or Shanghai cost 30,000 yuan per month.

Lastly, the company has to consider transportation. "David cannot be expected to walk to the office, he will need a car and a driver," Hao said. That's another \$150,000.

"And that's not even all the costs," Hao said, noting that David could have kids.

But generally, Hao said an average expat executive will cost \$250,000 to \$500,000 per year while a local manager would cost 250,000 to 500,000 yuan.

That's why the long-term plans for many successful multinational companies include shedding their expats, Hao said.

"Currently, most of our clients are still hiring expats, but they are slowing down," he said.

committed to globalization have gradually come to realize that it is dangerous to impose the culture of their own country on a worldwide organization. If a US company is seen as reserving top executive positions only for Americans, it will hurt the local employees' feelings and affect the company's operations. Multinationals are recognizing that they have to organize themselves in a way that will allow employees with different backgrounds to come up through the system and reach top jobs.

There has been a big shift in the thinking of major multinationals. They know that power can't stay in their home market.

Market watch

Expats face shrinking job market in Beijing

The job market for foreigners in Beijing is shrinking and becoming more competitive, according to a *China Daily* report on August 27.

There was an explosion in the number of expats looking for jobs in Beijing in the past five years, and employers are becoming increasingly picky, said Yang Jiameng, spokeswoman with the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA).

SAFEA recently organized a job fair for expats in Beijing that attracted 1,200 job seekers and 70 employers. Industries with the most demand for foreign talent were education, finance and IT.

"In the past, we had many job vacancies but not enough applicants, but that has completely changed now," Yang said.

Wisest, a recruiter, attributes the increase of foreign job-seekers in China to the obvious opportunities in emerging economies. The company said it receives two or three emails per week from expats, up from a previous two or three per month.

English First, a language training school in Beijing, said they've also received a lot more resumes at the fair than in the previous year.

"It is becoming harder for expats to find suitable jobs because there are more Chinese people with excellent English skills," Yang said.

At the end of 2008, as many as 217,000 foreigners held work permits in China, according to the National Bureau of Statistics, an increase of 7,000 from the previous year.

Capital gets its own fruit importer

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijingers may soon be getting a better deal on their imported fruit.

Earlier this month, fruits traders from 16 countries and regions, including Thailand, the Philippines, South Korea, Ecuador, South Africa, Germany and Canada, erected stalls at Xinfadi Agricultural Products Market on South Fourth Ring Road to target local consumers.

The block is located near a 2 hectare green production base and is the first Beijing market where foreign fruit traders sell directly to customers. More fruits traders are expected to move in to the area to sell fruits to the Beijing market and greater northern China.

Beijing is a huge market for imported fruits with annual consumption estimated at 20,000 tons. But since China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, only Guangzhou and Shanghai have served as hubs for incoming produce, leaving other cities to purchase from these hubs and resell.

Direct sales could reduce retail prices in Beijing markets by 30-50 percent. Xinfadi Agricultural Products Market, which conducts customs and quality inspections at the market, was the agent that opened the door to foreign produce in the capital.

"This first step in the market is our doing," Zhang Yuxi, the market's chairman, said. "We'll introduce more foreign traders to do business here."

The market established an inspection, monitoring and tracing system to cover quality inspection, problem tracing, early warnings, emergencies and online trading. Every product sold at Xinfadi has a bar code for identification. Buyers can easily find where fruit originated, was planted and picked.

"We're very enthusiastic about having a native agent to sell our fruits here," Salankon Kunlalanba, a wholesaler of Thai tropical fruits, said.

As many as 100 agricultural products cooperatives from the suburbs of Beijing settled down in the market as well. They are selling green produce to Beijingers, some of whom resell to foreign buyers.



Imported fruit is available.

Photo provided by cnr.cn

Dialogue

Kenny Jordan, AESC's executive director, discusses the new effort by multinational companies to hire local executives.

Q: What are the most significant changes in the way global talent is being distributed?

A: In recent years, we are seeing that both multinational and local companies in emerging markets like Russia, India and China have a huge demand for talent, especially executives and senior positions at the management level. They are hunting many places to find such talent and are hoping to find people who have broad experience and a native cultural background so they can fit in easily.

We found that returning talent who studied and worked abroad for a period of time have become extremely desirable.

Q: What do you think of the future for the expat job market?

A: Currently, expats still occupy the bulk of the positions in China, but I think that will continue to decline, as multinational and local companies are hunting the world to find returning talent to fill their vacancies.

Q: How should multinational companies operating in China balance their management teams made up of expats and locals?

A: This is the ultimate question. Global companies that are

How do 'apartment parkers' affect the housing market?

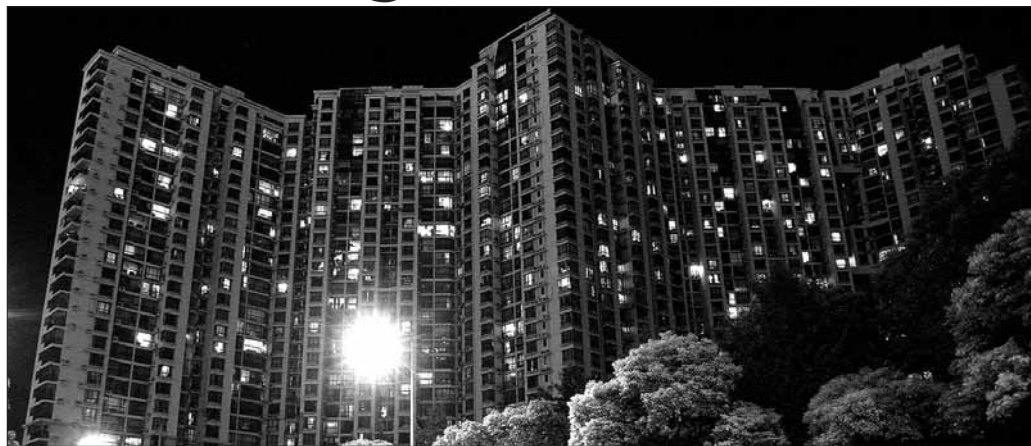
By Zhao Hongyi

The central government is calling on provincial and local governments to check "empty apartments" to get a better assessment of supply in the housing market. The check so far has revealed an emerging industry of "apartment parkers."

Faced with rocketing real estate prices, the central government enacted a number of measures earlier this year that caused the property market to stagnate. Developers, speculators and purchasers are all waiting to see whether the market turns back or remains frozen.

Reports say there may be as many as 65 million apartments that have no tenants, as developers or owners wait for the housing market to improve before leasing them out.

In Beijing, the number of empty apartments in Chaoyang District alone is estimated to take up 1.3 million square meters of space. The vacancy rate of luxury apartments and villas is estimated at 55 percent, much higher than the 18 percent of



A photo shot on August 31 shows the high vacancy rate in Beijing's Wangjing area.

Xu Dehe/IC Photo

ordinary commercial apartments.

The purpose of the government's investigation is to get to the root of the property market's problems. In China, property prices in big cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guang-

zhou have soared by as much as 30,000 yuan per square meter in downtown areas.

Surveyors will be sent to apartments and villas to see if anyone lives there. The most efficient way

is to check the ammeters and water meters. Most buyers of "empty apartments" will have never used their water or electricity.

Developers and speculators, however, have started recruiting

housekeepers to use electricity and water.

Many market watchers have said this is another cat-and-mouse game, predicting that surveyors will not achieve their goal.

Comment

Wasting money

It's a useless game of wasting money. What can you do to fill empty apartments even if you find them? The right way is to control the market according to market rules, since you developed the market based on market principles from the very

beginning.

— Rodrigo Garay, student from Chile

Unfair for new graduates

We have so many poor graduates and people new to the city who need apartments, but those with money have so many houses. It's one of the unfair

aspects brought about by the market economy. The only way is to build more apartments and houses. Let's see if house owners can gobble up every last one.

— Shen Xing, recent graduate living in Beijing

Important survey

The survey might take

some time, but it's important so the central government can decide whether to impose real property taxes in the near future, and how much the tax should be.

— Chen Guoqiang, vice chairman of Beijing Real Property Association

Balance the market

The survey should serve multiple purposes. We should also find the real cause of the empty apartments and find other ways to balance the market.

— Chen Zhi, secretary, Beijing Real Property Association

Background

Vacancy rate hints at real estate bubble

The property market has experienced several rounds of ups and downs, mainly since the central government released new policies to contain its rapid expansion.

Around 2000, after the government stopped distributing

free apartments, commercial apartments and houses experienced a first round of soaring prices. The central government appealed to local governments to portion out a section of "economic apartments" for the poor in their annual plans.

Around 2005, many of these "economic apartments" were purchased by officials and the rich at a time when commercial property prices soared as well. The central government tried to control access to these economic apartments and to

build "cheap-rent apartments" and "sub-commercial apartments" to increase the supply to the poor.

But the rich purchased many of these low-priced apartments as well, and commercial property prices continued to rise.

This year, the central government ordered all commercial banks to stop giving loans to individuals purchasing their third apartment or house. This kept the market stable for three months, but recently it has begun climbing again.

The consequence of yelling at mainland tourists

By Huang Daohen

Hong Kong tourism authorities have decided to ban a local tour guide caught on video berating mainland tourists for not spending enough money.

Last Saturday, the Hong Kong Tourism Industry Council announced the decision to revoke Li Qiaozhen's tour guide certificate, following a complaint lodged by the Anhui

Tourism Administration. Li has the right to appeal the decision within 14 days.

Li, known as Ah Zhen, was caught in a seven-minute video clip in March yelling at a group of tourists from Anhui Province. Li threatened to lock the tourists out of their hotel rooms if they did not spend more money at a local jewelry store.

The clip went viral and was

picked up by mainland media. It sparked a series of complaints among tourists about tour guides strong-arming them into buying more.

Insiders in the tour industry said the travel agency made Li its scapegoat. "Since tour guides like Ah Zhen do not get paid much by the agency, they have to earn a commission from how much tourists

spend at shops," said Zhang Huasheng, a manager at Beijing Youth Travel Agency's Guomao branch.

Zhang said low-price shopping tours, where people are taken to different shopping centers, are occasionally purchased by mainlanders. "You seldom see Americans or Europeans put up with these low-price tours," he said.

shopping more fun, enjoyable and exhilarating. Obviously, if one uses tact and good taste to introduce a place's shopping customs to visitors, one can turn it into a popular adventure.

— Lillian, PR consultant

Free and easy trips

My family and I have experienced such practices before. Since we go on trips by ourselves and we only use an agency to arrange our hotel accommodations. We book our tickets and plan our vacation online.

— Helen, secretary

names should be made public so that consumers can be aware of them.

— Wang Jin, senior editor with Beijing News

Contract required

This is the way the tour industry works worldwide. It doesn't matter if you are on a cruise in the Atlantic, in London, Japan or anywhere else, you get trapped into shopping. After years of taking my family on vacation worldwide, I've learned to communicate and sign a contract to make sure that the tour

procedures are pleasant.

When I took my family to Xi'an for a holiday recently, this is what we did: we negotiated a higher rate with the tour company and only went to places we wanted to visit like the jade factory, which I particularly liked as we saw them making items from jade.

— Jeff Bass, American visiting scholar

Make shopping more enjoyable

I think the tour agency and the tour guide should try to make



Ah Zhen apologizes during a press conference in July. Wen Di/CFP Photo

Comment

Tour agencies to blame

Hong Kong authorities took the easy way out, punishing the tour guide rather than changing the system. I personally feel sympathy for this woman. Yes, she should not have been so abusive, but she was only trying to make a living in a very competitive industry. It's always money that destroys ethics.

The people to blame are the travel agency and the shop that agreed to give commissions. They should get their business licenses revoked. At least their

Elderly American couple helps homeless in Tongzhou

By Chu Meng

Izzic, a Chinese deaf-mute and once-homeless man, has lived in Jim Habib's home in Tongzhou District for the last nine months.

Habib, 75, and his wife Lorene are known by young Beijingers for their private English-language library and English Corner. But the couple has also attracted attention for something else: they provide shelter for the area's homeless, like Izzic.

"In English, 'Izzic' implies a man who laughs a lot," said Habib, who does not know Izzic's real name. "We hope he can lead a happy life. Though he cannot hear or speak, his blood is the same as ours."

Izzic lives in a room next to a balcony in Habib's house, and Habib's 50-year-old daughter, Judy, has become his caretaker.

People have wondered how Habib communicates with Izzic. "It's easy," he said. "Through eye contact and facial expressions, we could tell he is a very pure-hearted man."

Habib's family has long had an interest in aiding China's homeless. They frequently said hi to a young homeless man near a McDonald's on Xinhua Avenue in Tongzhou last



Lorene Habib (left), Izzic and Judy Habib at home

Photos provided by Liu Min



Judy accompanied Izzic at the hospital after his surgery.

autumn. They would hug him and, after a while, bring him food and drink.

When winter came, Judy, who has four adopted sons in the US, decided to take the man home, giving him a name and treating him as a Chinese son.

The Beijing Municipal Bureau of Civil Affairs recognized the

family's efforts last December and presented Habib the Honorary Lifetime Award for his family's efforts to help the local community. He is the only foreigner to have received this award.

The Habibs moved to Beijing in 2006 after Jim and Lorene retired, to live on their American pensions. Their daily expenses

and the library's operating costs add up quickly, so Habib has encouraged Izzic to work and make money by his own hands.

Izzic has since been collecting recycled waste and working part-time as a parking attendant. His monthly income of 200 to 400 yuan isn't much, but it's something.

In August, Judy, who was a nurse in the US for more than 10 years, discovered Izzic had acute appendicitis. He went to Tongzhou No. 262 Hospital for surgery on August 17, with the family and English Corner volunteers accompanying him during his recovery.

When he was ready to leave the hospital five days later, he insisted on paying the 4,000 yuan fee by himself. It was all his earnings from the past year.

"Izzic was much tougher than we expected," said Sarah Liu, manager of Habib's library. "He went out to work again just three days after getting out of the hospital. He earned respect from neighbors and everyone, and he became more outgoing."

The couple is now trying to find a professional organization to teach Izzic sign language and basic living methods.

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<< Free Entrance

Indian embassy presents fusion of traditional and modern jazz

By Chu Meng

A workshop and live performance were given by a one-of-a-kind jazz duo at the Indian embassy's new cultural wing in Beijing.

The band Princess Akih consists of Monica Akihary on vocals, her life partner Niels Brouwer on guitar and special guest Sandip Bhattacharya on tabla, a type of Indian hand drums. They have enjoyed positive responses in Europe for their adventurous combination of modern jazz with folk music from Indonesia, India, South Africa and Europe.

Akihary, who grew up on the Molucca (also known as Maluku) Islands in Indonesia, started the night with a workshop that introduced the history of the forgotten place where her musical inspira-

tion originated.

She said that early archaeological evidence places human beings in the region about 32,000 years ago. Due to an abundance of spices and natural resources, Molucca grew into a cosmopolitan society that attracted Arab and Chinese spice traders.

"Molucca became better known as the 'Spice Island,' a name given by early Chinese traders," Akihary said.

"We've known each other all along," she joked with the audience.

The live show began with Akihary kicking off her sandals and stepping onto the carpet. She sang in an exotic, colorful and hoarse voice while Brouwer accompanied her on a gently amplified guitar.

Born in the Netherlands, Aki-

hary studied sculpture at the School of Fine Art in Amsterdam and the Arts Academy in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Brouwer, an intriguing composer and fascinating improviser, has collaborated with Akihary from the beginning; he wrote all the music for the band's latest album.

Because of the duo's distinguished heritage – one primitive Moluccan and the other modern Dutch – the couple has integrated their everyday language into a unique musical style rooted in several places. They have fused Indonesian and South Indian music with classical European music and jazz, spiced with south-east Asian rhythms and lively improvisation.

"A curious mix of jazz. A new kind of jazz, if you like," Akihary said.



Vocalist Monica Akihary and her life and music partner, guitarist Niels Brouwer.

Australia on the big screen in Sanlitun

By Liang Meilan

As part of the 2010 Australia-China Cultural Year activities, a video exhibition combining art work from eight Australian artists will be shown on Sanlitun Village's big screen every half hour each day.

Titled "Dream Worlds," the show draws elements from animation, generative media, video games, dance, film and art. "The show presents a wide range of elements touching on Australian icons, such as its red soil, the life of its aboriginal people and the blue seashore," said Melinda Rackham, the curator.

Rackham, formerly an artist and now a well known art critic and curator, said holding such a show will introduce Australia to more people. The curator chose artists whose works have never been shown in China before.

"A lot of people, especially those from the northern hemisphere, think Australia is an exotic destination that's a long ways away," she said. "They don't really know what it is really like. So part of the exhibition is to increase the world's understanding of the country."

"Instead of putting the show in an exhibition room, we chose to show it in an open area to make art part of people's lives."

The show has positive responses received so far.

"This will increase dialogue between artists from the two countries, which will eventually add to mutual understanding not only in art but also among the general public," said Jill Collins, news and culture counselor at the Australian embassy.

The exhibition consists of eight video clips on a diverse range of topics that deal with the universal themes of love, hope, aspiration, security and comfort.

"What's amazing is that though there are no conversations in the videos, it seems people from any culture can easily understand what's being communicated," said Ren Bo, a local artist.

A very popular piece seems to be New Zealand native Daniel Crooks' "Living Land," which shows pictures from the cities of Shanghai, Melbourne



Melinda Rackham

Photo provided by Edward Sanderson

and Ho Chi Minh.

"This is actually a short version of a project I made for an Australian bank to show on a newly built screen on its building," Cook said. "They told me to do an international themed video. The first city that came to mind was Shanghai, now hailed as one of the most promising economic metropolises in the world."

Rather than using images that reflect Shanghai's fast-paced life and enormous buildings, Crooks chose to zoom in on the city's details. In one scene, an old man practices tai chi in front of a tall building.

"Even though he knew that I was shooting him, he didn't seem to be distracted and kept doing peaceful and rhythmic movements," Crooks said.

"This experience actually inspired me to stretch and compress the space and time within the pictures to explore underlying rhythms and patterns in the physical world."

Another work on display is by Australian artist Anita Fontaine, who now lives in Amsterdam, who composed her visually inviting and magical work for China's youth.

"Even though this is my first time in China, I've learned that China's young people are greatly interested in video games," Fontaine said. "I'm eager to talk to this young generation and get feedback about my work... which references universal themes of high romance and chivalry found in old and new media such as medieval fairytales and video games."

DCCC invites award nominations

By Zhao Hongyi

The Danish Chamber of Commerce in China is seeking nominations for the 2010 Business Person of the Year and Entrepreneur of the Year awards for outstanding Danish or Chinese people involved in bilateral business.

The award for best businessperson was first given in 2007, and an award for best entrepreneur was added the following year. The nomination process will yield three finalists, with an award ceremony held at the end of the year.

Previous winners of the businessperson award were Allan Warburg, co-founder of Bestseller (2007); Zhen Jian Guo, former Chinese ambassador to Denmark (2008); and Morten Bay Jensen, president of ECCO (Xiamen) (2009). Anne Charlotte Lembye, founder and owner of Lukou and CPH, won the entrepreneur award last year.

"We are trying to unite the Danish community in China while promoting our organization," said Christian Overgaard, chairman of the chamber and regional vice president of Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa of Chr. Hansen A/S, a global biotechnology company ingredients to the food, beverage, dietary supplements and agricultural industries.

On April 22, 1931, 12 Danish businessmen representing 12 companies set up the Danish Chamber of Commerce, joining businessmen from several other countries that did the same. The chamber now has China offices, in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou; all three celebrate this award.

The ceremony and banquet is usually held in the fourth quarter. The award statue, made of white porcelain, is named Vilhelm after the famous Danish industrial entrepreneur Vilhelm Meyer, who lived and worked in Shanghai from 1900 to 1935.

The statue was designed by Carsten Jorgensen, who was inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale "The Nightingale." In the tale, a Chinese emperor falls in love with a lovely nightingale that gives him much pleasure. The tale and the Vilhelm statue reflect peaceful Chinese-Danish relations.

To download the nomination forms and for more information, visit dccc-shanghai.com.

First Miss Laowai beauty contest fosters cultural exchange, community building



Miss Laowai contestants hand-shaping the ribbon logo of the breast cancer prevention campaign

Photo provided by David Tim

By Liang Meilan

Intense and sweaty dance and catwalk trainings have constituted "nightlife" in the past two weeks for 25 foreign women who are vying for the title of Miss Laowai.

Miss Laowai is more about cultural exchange, community building and charity work than it is about fashion and poise, says Prudence Sinkala, the event organizer. Unlike many aspiring beauty queens, the majority of Miss Laowai contestants do not have any modeling experience, she says.

David Tim, Sinkala's husband and co-organizer, says, "This is a search not only for a beautiful woman who carries herself well, but also someone with a good heart who can connect well with the local community, especially disadvantaged groups."

The contestants' six-month

preparation included doing community work, such as volunteering at Bethel, a home for blind orphans.

But the women's most important task has been to raise awareness about breast cancer, making frequent visits to Tiantan Hospital's cancer ward. "Part of their score will come from how they helped and comforted patients," Tim says, adding that 60 percent of Miss Laowai's proceeds will go to Tiantan Hospital and to selected patients.

Ana Ropot, 22, a contestant from Moldova, says the experience has been "fresh and meaningful." She says one of her most unforgettable moments was teaching breast cancer patients her favorite magic trick.

"At first, they just stared at us. But as we began chatting and became more familiar with each

other, they asked me to teach them a magic trick – and we ended up laughing together," says the student at Beijing International Studies University, who won Fujian Province's Miss International Tourism contest last year.

The idea to hold local beauty pageants apparently started with Sinkala's love for music. "Because I love singing pop songs ... I joined various TV talent contests a couple of times, like CCTV's 'Xingguangdadao,'" says Sinkala, who hails from Africa and has lived in China for eight years.

"I know very well how much fun it is to participate in or watch such programs. I wanted to share the feeling with my foreign friends, so I came up with the idea of holding a beauty contest that would feature the talent of foreign women," she says.

Last year, Sinkala and Tim organized a small beauty contest called Miss Africa, which showcased Africa's culture and treasures. "This year, we decided to elevate it to an international level, bringing together women from different countries and with diverse backgrounds, such as teachers, students, visual artists and musicians," Tim says.

Besides the winner of Miss Laowai, the contest will also choose "Excellent Lady," "Talent Lady" and "Goodwill Lady" based on the women's performance tomorrow at the 21 Century Hotel.

The couple hopes to make Miss Laowai a big part of Beijing's annual social calendar. "And we hope Miss Laowai will be widely recognized as the world standard for support to breast cancer awareness," Tim says.

Second China sommelier competition begins Sunday

By Annie Wei

The mainland's first sommelier contest last year sent two finalists to Japan to participate in the Best Sommelier of Asia-Oceania competition.

China's second sommelier showdown, which begins Sunday, will be an even bigger event. Besides Beijing and Shanghai, Chongqing and Guangzhou will also hold qualifying rounds, a promising sign that wine culture is becoming more popular domestically, say the organizer.

"There is an increasing demand for wine professionals here. I notice that Chinese people are drinking wine more often, especially in Chinese restaurants, it's just they do not know much about wines and wine pairing," says Tommy Lam, president of Asia Wine Institute and the contest organizer.



Tommy Lam (far right), the organizer of the event, at the first China Junior Sommelier Competition last year

Photo provided by China Sommelier Competition

The competition will give people in the food and beverage industry a chance to improve their skills and knowledge, while the best ones will get a chance to see how they "stack up" against sommeliers overseas, Lam says.

Hans Qu, of the Intercontinental Hotel in Shenzhen and last year's first-prize winner, says he flew to Shanghai to join the competition as soon as he heard of it. "It was a great opportunity to meet other sommeliers," Qu says.

Lam says the contest Sunday will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions and a blind tasting of two wines. The nine participants who score the highest nationwide will proceed to Shanghai for the final round on September 26. The winner will be sent to Spain to compete in the World Best Young Sommelier Competition next month.

China's sommelier competition will be judged by international and local experts, based on the rules and constitutions of the Association of La Sommelierie Internationale (International Association of Sommeliers). It is open to Chinese citizens who work in the food and beverage industry, such as hotels and restaurants.

For more information, write to Tommy Lam at tommylam@wineamigo.com.

Event

Mothercraft workshop

Beijing International SOS Clinic is offering a "mothercraft" workshop till October 26. The once-a-week course will teach participants crucial skills like physiotherapy during pregnancy, delivery and after delivery; how to rock an infant to sleep; and toddler toilet training. Openings are limited, so make a reservation through seminar@internationalsos.com as soon as possible.

Where: Beijing International SOS Clinic, Suite 105, Wing 1, Kunsha Building, 16 Xinyuanli, Chaoyang District

When: Every Tuesday until October 26, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Tel: 6462 9112
Cost: Free

Junior soccer coaching sessions

To know whether your child has talent in soccer, take him or her to Club Football, Beijing's first licensed joint-venture that promotes amateur soccer on the mainland. The Club is offering free sessions on its junior coaching program, taught by coaches accredited by the Union of European Football Association.

Where: Chaoyang Park, 1 Chaoyanggongyuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every Saturday until September 30, 10 am – 6 pm
Tel: 5130 6893
Cost: Free

Lecture: Laozi and philosophical Tao

Taoism and Confucianism, China's native religious and philosophical traditions, use poetic, symbolic and paradoxical expressions to describe the ultimate power that animates everything that exists. The English lecture will explain the key concepts in the Taoist masterpiece *Tao Te Ching* by the philosopher-sage Laozi, including the meaning of Tao, non-action and simplicity.

Where: China Culture Center, Room A201, Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: September 10, 10 am – noon
Tel: 6432 9341
Cost: 50 yuan

Kid's theater group's open house

Drama Rainbow, a British-based school that works to develop children's performance skills, is holding an open house this weekend and next. Parents who register their child a day in advance will make the child eligible for a free demo class for 4 to 7 year olds. Each class is limited to 10 students. Drama Rainbow is known for teaching kids problem-solving techniques through drama and role play.

Where: Drama Rainbow, Suite 700, 11 Wanliu Dong Lu, Haidian District

When: September 11 and 12, 18 and 19, 11 am – 6 pm
Tel: 8255 1838
Cost: Free

(By Liang Meilan)

Central bank launches integrated online banking

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10万元-50万元(含)	电子汇划费15元
50万元-100万元(含)	电子汇划费20元
100万元以上	电子汇划费汇款金额*0.02‰(最高200元)

The new online payment system hopes to lower the interbank transfer fees in the long run. EG365/CFP

By Annie Wei

To cut time spent queuing at banks, an increasing number of Chinese people are using online banking to pay rent, utility bills and Taobao purchases.

The People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, launched its online payment interbank clearing system at the end of August to promote real-time interbank transfers and balance inquiries. Before the new system was introduced, interbank money transfers took up to two days.

The People's Bank's "super online banking" system links 27 banks, which promises customers access to various bank accounts through only one website. The member banks consist of four state-run banks, 10 joint-equity commercial banks, five city commercial banks, five

rural commercial banks and three foreign-funded banks.

But *Beijing Today* discovered that the integrated banking system was not yet fully operational as of Friday. The network did not yet have its own website, so clients needed to pay through Chinabank, a third-party Internet payment system.

Also, only a handful of banks have shared their customers' information with members of the central bank's online banking system.

But the most complicated issue is that the system does not have its own identity verification procedure, so users must submit identity verification with each bank where he holds an account.

Some banks like China Merchants' Bank allow their clients to check their

accounts with other banks through the new system, but not vice versa.

On the bright side, the new system is expected to lead to lower interbank transfer fees in the long run. Currently, each bank levies differing transfer fees.

ICBC charges 1 percent of the money transferred, with a minimum 2 yuan and maximum 50 yuan levied per transaction. China Merchants' Bank and Industrial Bank of China charge 0.6 percent, with a minimum 5 yuan and a maximum 50 yuan fee per transaction.

CITIC and China Minsheng Bank, on the other hand, said transfers made through the new system were free.

To encourage people to adopt mobile banking, some banks like ICBC offer a cheaper rate of 0.2 percent per transaction.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyi@ynet.com

I heard that China has ordered SIM-card buyers to register their real names beginning September 1. I have a friend who just arrived in town and was able to buy a SIM card off a newspaper stand without showing any identification. Can she get into trouble doing that?

According to the new regulation, newspaper stands are now prohibited from selling SIM cards. Your friend can report the incident to the newspaper stand authority at telephone number 8315 0667, and she will be granted a full refund. The vendor will get a 5,000-yuan fine for engaging in an unlawful act.

I've bought cooking ingredients on Taobao several times and I love how convenient shopping has become. But I need to find a shop that offers a wider range of goods, because I often have to visit three to five vendors to get everything I need. Do you have any recommendations?

Try visiting womai.com, a professional food supplier run by the state-owned China Oil and Foodstuffs Corporation. It sells both domestic and imported food, which have undergone quality control and inspection.

I visited Chaoyang Park several days ago and discovered that its white-sand "beach" has been closed for repair. I'm planning to hold a beach volleyball match for friends before the weather gets too cold and I'd like to know when the area will reopen.

Good news! The beach area reopened Last Sunday, September 5, after four days of renovation. Because the temperature has begun to drop and fewer people go there to swim and sunbathe, the park authority has rezoned the area. The beach is now divided into two volleyball courts, two soccer fields and one badminton court. It is open daily from 9:30 am to 5 pm. Admission has decreased from 80 to 30 yuan an hour.

(By Liang Meilan)

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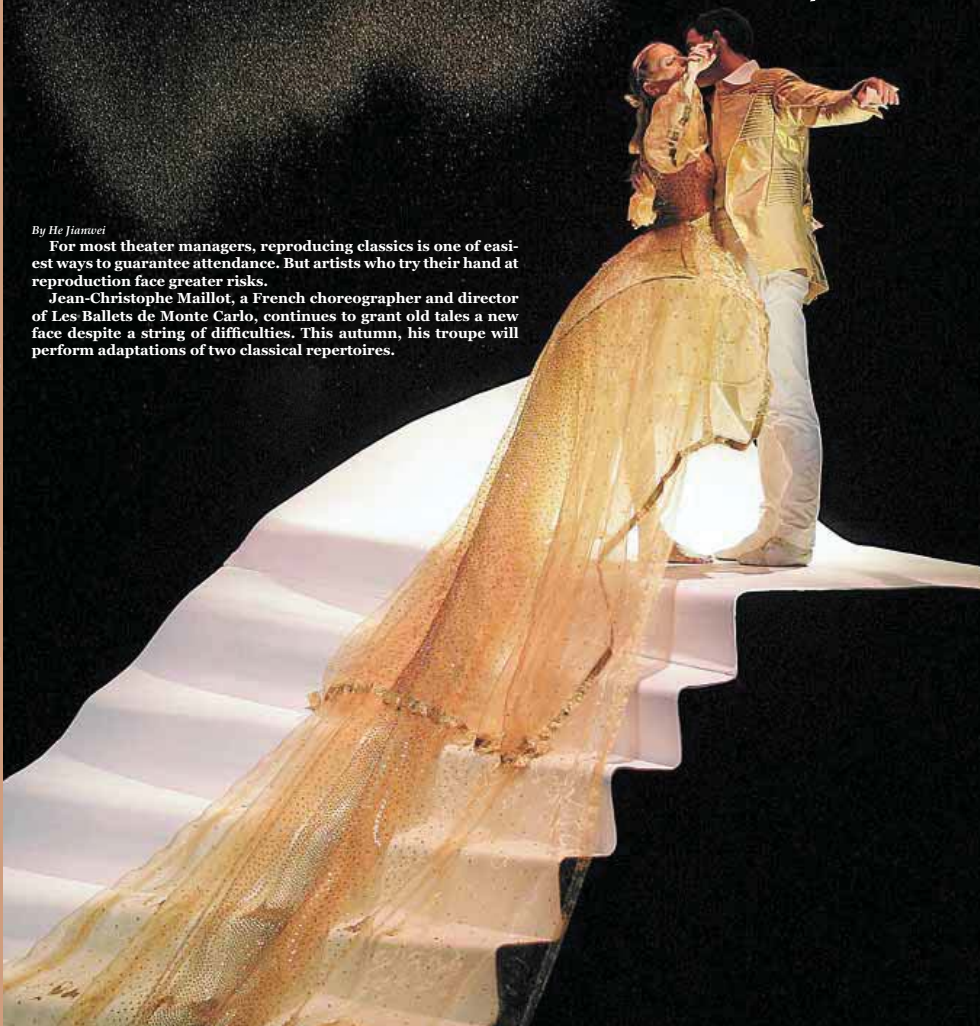
New twist on

Monaco's ballet reinterprets the classics

By He Jianwei

For most theater managers, reproducing classics is one of the easiest ways to guarantee attendance. But artists who try their hand at reproduction face greater risks.

Jean-Christophe Maillot, a French choreographer and director of Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, continues to grant old tales a new face despite a string of difficulties. This autumn, his troupe will perform adaptations of two classical repertoires.



old tales

classics

It has been 10 years since Monaco's ballet company last visited China. At that time, his modern interpretation of *Romeo and Juliet* astonished local theatergoers and the media.

For this second tour, Maillot is adapting Marius Petipa's *Sleeping Beauty* into a contemporary ballet titled *La Belle* and Sergey Prokofiev's *Cinderella* into *Cendrillon*. The adaptations will add new ideas and visual effects to the story, as well as introduce modern abstract concepts through dance.

Born in Tours, France in 1960, Maillot has worked with Les Ballets de Monte Carlo since 1987, two years after its founding. During the 1992-93 season he was artistic director, and in September 1993, Her Royal Highness the Princess of Hanover appointed him director-choreographer.

Although the company is relatively new to the ballet world, it has a deep history with Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, the cradle of contemporary dance and choreography.

In 1909, Diaghilev brought his itinerant company of the Imperial Ballet of St. Petersburg's best dancers to Paris, and then continued a tour of Britain, Spain and the US.

Diaghilev's was one of the most influential theater companies in the 20th century, due in no small part to its ground-breaking collaboration with the greatest painters, composers and dancers of the day, including Balanchine, Massine, Ravel, Stravinsky, Debussy, Picasso, Pavlova and Nijinsky.

Unfortunately, after the director's death in 1929, the dancers scattered. In 1938, the company was reassembled in Monaco, and that residence is today the home of Les Ballets de Monte Carlo.

Monte Carlo is in some ways the spiritual successor of Ballets Russes, and it regularly invites contemporary choreographers to create new works.

"Being a director, it is my responsibility to present traditional works. But at the same time I intend to make dance move forward," Maillot said.

Of more than 50 new ballets, Maillot says only five or six have been keepers.

"Classic ballet shows off the techniques, but I want to transmit an emotion to the public and propose other solutions to the classics that no longer correspond to what the audience wants," he said.

Maillot criticized Petipa's *Sleeping Beauty* for having largely eliminated the carnal character of Charles Perrault's tale. To many people, this *Sleeping Beauty* is not what Perrault told. The tale of this young girl is in fact one of the flesh, but that meaning has been hidden from us because of our moral standards and social norms," he said.

While his presentations are new, they are anything but flashy. Shunning extrava-

gant stage decorations for more meaningful movements and heavy classical costumes for something lighter, Maillot lets his dancers set the stage.

To get the best criticism, he brings his daughter Juliette Dol, a French actress, to the theater. If she can easily recognize the dancer on the stage as Cinderella, Maillot keeps the part. When his daughter frowns at certain scenes or movements, they get cut.

The original story has left much space for his *Cendrillon*. "Cinderella is a rather boring person, until she falls in love," he said. "The author did not write too much about her parents, so I develop their role in my adaptation."

In *Cendrillon*, the title character's late mother appears in the form of a fairy. With her help, Cinderella wears her mother's dress to attend the ball. The Prince falls in love with her at the first sight, and Cinderella's father recognizes the fairy is his daughter's birth mother.

"The two young people follow in the steps of Cinderella's parents. They are destined to be lovers," he said.

Unlike many choreographers, Maillot does not distribute roles until two days before the performance.

Before beginning his career in choreography, Maillot danced principal roles for five years in John Neumeier's Hamburg Ballet.

"In many big classical companies, the directors make all the decisions and give no responsibility to their artists," Maillot said. "In Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, the role goes to the best dancer, one who best masters the technique and state."

Maillot has rapidly developed Monte Carlo during the last decade. In 2000, the group began its first ballet season on the stage of the Salle des Princes at the new congress center in Monaco.

While he does not know how long his company will survive or which other classic tales it will remake, he says the show must go on.

Photos provided by National Center for the Performing Arts

La Belle (The Sleeping Beauty)

When: September 21-23,
7:30 pm

Cendrillon (Cinderella)

When: September 25-26,
7:30 pm

Where: Opera House of the
National Center for the Perform-
ing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie,
Xicheng District

Admission: 180-680 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000



Glimpse of modern Russia

'80s writers keep sharp eyes on contemporary situation

By He Jianwei

Russia has made great contributions to the literary world since the 19th century, through its celebrated writers Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Anton Chekhov.

But Russia's contemporary writers are unknown to the world outside. To bring exposure to new talents, Natasha Perova, founder of Moscow-based publisher Glas, brought six of the country's top young writers – the winners of the Debut Prize – to the 2010 Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF).

To coincide with the appearance, the People's Literature Publishing House and Glas released a Chinese edition of *Squaring the Circle*, the first anthology of Debut Prize winning works.

"[These] writings provide a glimpse of present-day Russia, its thoughts and future direction," Perova said.

Founded in 2000, the prize aims to encourage writers under 25. "The Debut inspires young Russian writers to complete their first book. It prompts them to commit to literature their unique experiences – what might be described as the shock of their first encounter with grown-up life," said Olga Slavnikova, director of the awarding body.

Last Wednesday, the young writers spoke about their books and connection to Russian literary tradition.



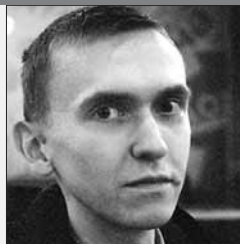
Photos by Jiang Li

A 'transitioning' generation

Born in Kazan in 1982, Irina Bogatyreva won the Debut Prize in 2007. By the time she graduated from the Maxim Gorky Literature Institute, Bogatyreva had already published novels in literary magazines.

"A writer must be sensitive to the time he or she lives in. It is important for me to reflect contemporary life in my works," Bogatyreva said. "Besides historical reality, I also care about the emotions of our generation."

She describes her generation as a "transitioning" one, because in their adolescent period they experienced the collapse of the Soviet Union. "The old ideology collapsed and a new one had not been established. We grew up flustered and were determined to deny any ideology," she said. "We kept distant from the authorities, because we didn't believe



Valery Pecheykin



Irina Bogatyreva

in anybody but ourselves."

Bogatyreva's novels are less about exploring this history than shaping a vision of the future.

Like Bogatyreva, Valery Pecheykin, 26, focuses on the transition he experienced and its aftermath.

Born and raised in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Pecheykin often sets his novels in that city.

In one of his shorts, "Trash," he describes a famous flea market in Tashkent. Every morning, people would go to the market to hock their old goods. Pecheykin compares the vendors to worms roasting in the sun.

"During the reign of the Soviet Union, Tashkent was a great city. After the collapse, people in Uzbekistan vowed that we would have a better future," he said. "But they haven't made their promise come true even 10 years after independence. Most people have emigrated to Russia."

Writing fate, not politics

Born in 1981, Natalya Klyuchareva is a Moscow journalist. She won the Debut Prize in 2002 and the Yuri Kazakov Literary Prize for short story in 2007.

Her first novel was about a train ride into the countryside to discover the motherland and its meaning for contemporary Russia. Before she wrote the book, Klyuchareva traveled Russia as a reporter for a newspaper.

"The road is both actual and allegorical in the book. In fact,

we are all on the road to uncertainty," she said.

Shunning Moscow for something more natural, Klyuchareva lives in a small town called Zhuchki.

Her award-winning book for the Yuri Kazakov Literature Prize tells of a man who, after his marriage fails, moves to a nearly deserted town called Paradise.

Critics called the story an allegory. The scene where the wall of the man's shack crumbles day by day was likened



Natalya Klyuchareva

to the state of contemporary Russia.

However, Klyuchareva denied any political motive in her prose. "I don't in general write about politics, but about people," she said.

"Communication and consciousness are the two gifts of literature. I don't believe a man who is capable of writing can necessarily be a writer. Life asks you to write for the lonely and disadvantaged – to fight against death, poverty and starvation," she said.

Rediscovering tradition

Most of the young writers began reading their country's great literature in middle school.

"It's impossible for a high school student to appreciate the value of those works. When I first read those books, I thought they were a little bit boring, so I had no interest in reading them," Klyuchareva said. "But when I began to write, I understood the meaning of traditional literature."

Regardless of whether it is following Tolstoy or Dostoyevsky, a good Russian story always follows a negative protagonist. Stories about the fate of good men rarely stand the test of time.



Anna Lavrinenko

But 26-year-old Anna Lavrinenko breaks from this tradition.

"I prefer to represent reality



Dmitry Fallev

in my work. The protagonists in it cannot be divided into good or bad men. Real men have two sides," Lavrinenko said. "The

best literature encourages us to understand the world."

In fact, most of the young writers assert their independent spirit.

As a Debut Award laureate in 2005, Dmitry Fallev – journalist and gypsy admirer – writes to find freedom.

"Life places many restrictions on humans – everyone plays his or her role according to the social norms, but I don't let these constrain my mind. The happiness of writing is to break all rules," Fallev said.

"Creating is a way to explore the future, and a good writer is always lost in it," he said.

Bookworm book listing

Vivian Wang from the Bookworm recommends the following bestsellers to Beijing Today readers.



Fat China: How Expanding Waistlines are Changing a Nation

By Paul French and Matthew Crabbe, 250pp, Anthem Press, \$29.95

China's economy is booming, but with a potentially disastrous side effect. Obesity now threatens the country's fragile healthcare system, and today's overweight Chinese can look forward to bright economic hopes for their country and to deteriorating health for themselves. The rising obesity rates are startling when compared to 20 years ago: an era when diets were limited by food availability and famine was a recent memory.



The Devil that Danced on the Water: A Daughter's Memoir

By Aminatta Forna, 412pp, Flamingo, \$14

This personal history is the account of an African who, as a child, witnessed the upheavals of post-colonial Africa, the bitterness of exile in Britain and the terrible consequences of her dissident father's stand against tyranny.



The Second World: How Emerging Powers are Redefining Global Competition in the Twenty-first Century

By Parag Khanna, 496pp, Random House Trade Paperbacks, \$16

The author, chosen as one of Esquire's 75 Most Influential People of the 21st century, reveals how America's future depends on its ability to compete with the European Union and China to forge relationships in the Second World, the pivotal regions of Eastern Europe, Central Asia, South America, the Middle East and East Asia, that are growing in influence and economic strength.

(By He Jianwei)



Rise of the Androids

By Wang Yu

The Google Android phone has, in many ways, turned the smart phone scene on its head. In a market where Apple's iPhone has been ubiquitous, Android has become a real competitor.

And that's costing Apple its fans.

For shoppers on a budget, Google's Nexus One is a substi-

tute for the iPhone 3GS. The smart phone platform has even salvaged ailing Motorola, which today is making Android-compatible products.

But for the most hardcore gadget enthusiasts, having both an iPhone and an Android is essential. To introduce the new technology, Beijing Today is presenting a crash course on using the robot.

Nancy Meng, a TV reporter, is planning to upgrade her old Samsung phone. As a long-time Mac user, she sees a new iPhone 4 as her ultimate goal.

But 7,000 yuan is pricey for an unlocked phone.

"I don't think it's worth it to pay 7,000 yuan for a cell phone, even if I love Apple's products. I need a phone that can record video, connect to the Internet and install applications for daily use. Friends told me to take a look at Android," she said.

"At first glance most of these phones were too masculine for a girl to use, but soon I realized its new system is really good, and more importantly the phone is affordable," Meng says.

Price has not been the only reason for Android's popularity. Its Google heritage is important for many shoppers.

The system was initially developed by Android, a small startup company based in Palo Alto, California which was acquired by Google in 2005. Two years later, the Open Handset Alliance (OHA) was founded by several companies which include Texas Instruments, Broadcom and Google. The group developed open standards for mobile devices, and Android became its brainchild.

Since October 21, 2008, Android's source code has been available, allowing developers to get more involved in the scene. It is the second most popular mobile development environment, with 70,000 applications available and a total of 100,000 submitted.

Its development platform appeals most to IT workers, many of whom are enamored with its open source origins.

"There's a joke that if you were to do a survey of smart phone users, you would find that the iPhone has all the gays. That's probably an exaggeration, but I do think Android is cooler than iOS. The Android phones aren't flashy, and are made for real users who enjoy upgrades," says Zhang Yue, a programmer who frequently changes phones.

NPD Group, a leading market research company in the US, said unit sales for Android OS smart phones ranked first among all smart phones sold in the US in the second quarter of 2010. BlackBerry followed with 28 percent of the market, and iOS came in third with 22 percent.

In China, its market share is smaller – but growing. According to analysis results from Canalys, 475,000 Android smart phones were sold here in the same period, accounting for 7 percent of the new market.

"You can find more people use HTC's Android products on the street. I think the release of popular phones like the G3 is helping to raise awareness of these phones," Zhang says.

Unlike iOS, the user interface on Android phones can vary dramatically since the core system is open source. Each manufacturer offers very different designs.

"That makes Android more flexible. You can always switch to another type of product to see new ways to use it," he says.

Android phones are also more tablet-oriented, and widgets like weather reports and calendars are available on the main screen.

Popular models



HTC Desire

This is the top product in HTC's Android series. The cell phone was announced on February 16, 2010 and released in Europe and Australia during the second quarter. Desire uses an Android 2.2 system with a 1 GHz Snapdragon processor, an active-matrix OLED screen and a 5-megapixel camera.

Like the Nexus One, this smart phone can play high-definition video. The Android operating system also takes advantage of the video circuitry on the Snapdragon processor, enabling the device to capture and playback video at 720p on a WVGA screen.

Google Nexus One

People often compare the Nexus One and the HTC Desire, even though Google's phone is also manufactured by HTC. The phone can transcribe voice to text, cancel noise using dual microphones and provide GPS-guided turn-by-turn voice directions to drivers.

While the Nexus One has not been officially released here, the unlocked version sold abroad already has Chinese support. The phone can easily be found in Zhongguancun and costs around 3,800 yuan. Unlike the iPhone, Android allows users to run several applications at the same time.

However, this phone only supports WCDMA, meaning the only service provider will be China Unicom if you want to use Nexus on the 3G network.



Lenovo LePhone

Lenovo's LePhone may be most familiar to soccer fans because its TV advertisement aired at every break during the World Cup. But those ads weren't all hype: even though the phone is a cheap 2,800 yuan, it packs a lot of great features.

LePhone has a 1GHz processor and a 3.7-inch touch screen that is bright and responsive. What sets it apart from other Android phones is its iOS-inspired interface.

Motorola Droid X

Since Motorola's revival as an Android maker, its Droid series has become the darling of every tech website. The Droid X was released in the US after months of information leaks on the Internet.

The phone includes Wi-Fi capability, HDMI output, an 8-megapixel camera with 720p video recording, a 1.0 GHz processor, a 4.3-inch FWVGA LCD display and 3G wireless hot-spot support.

It also packs 8 gigabytes of internal flash memory and includes a 16-gigabyte microSD (TF) card in the box. Motorola says an Android 2.2 will be available soon.

The phone has not been released in China and it ships locked, meaning for now the only option is the gray market. Even then, it still can't make a call. Some hackers have developed a way to "burn" phone numbers onto Droid to make get it onto Chinese networks, but the process is a little complicated for ordinary users.



Android revisions

Like every operating system, Android has been through several upgrades. The programmers name each revision after their favorite dessert at the time.

1.5 - Cupcake



1.6 - Donut



2.0/2.1 - Eclair



2.2 - Froyo



3.0 - Gingerbread



Designing a brand new Chinese lifestyle

By Annie Wei

Brand New China (BNC), an original Chinese design store that opened at Sanlitun Village North last month, has more than 100 interesting and fun pieces on display from local designers.

China's adolescents lead a drastically different lifestyle than their predecessors 20 or 30 years ago. They have grown up in a better environment and many of them have been educated abroad. Young designers' works reflect this newfound affluence, and their passion in design has prompted many of them to create their own brands.

But while more designers are making high-quality pieces, they still lack a commercial platform to promote their products.

BNC aims to give designers more chances to build a connection with consumers who are interested in original works. The store has a famous investor in Hong Huang, publisher of iLook magazine, which promotes the culture industry and local designers.

This week, *Beijing Today* handpicked some of BNC's products and talked to designers about where they got their ideas.



BNC

Where: NLG-09a, floor B1, Sanlitun Village North, Chaoyang District
Open: 12:30-8:30 pm Tel: 6416 9045



Knitting jewelries, starting from 400 yuan

To designer Zhang Xiaochuan, knitting is linked to nature, connecting things like sky to earth to plants and animals. For her knitting, she incorporates different materials like Austrian crystals and Italian glass beads. As such, her jewelry collection is full of playfulness and fun – the crystal and glass beads bring a glamour that is artfully subtle.

"It's so easy to get lost in this metropolis, so I hope my jewelry expresses a kind of beauty that is trapped between appearing and disappearing," Zhang said.



Thermo flask, 2,000 yuan

Wang Yang said the thermo flask was one of the designs he's most proud of. Wang, who majored in traditional Chinese painting, prefers traditional structures and materials, which is why the flask has the ligature *shuangxi* – double happiness – and why it's made of brass, which is more expensive than copper and iron but representative of ancient Chinese culture. Brass also gets shinier as it ages, reflecting the connection between the product and its users.



Non Season by designer Zhang Di, 2,700 yuan

This cashmere and wool piece, which comes in black and gray, can be worn in five different ways – as a cape for pregnant women, a sweater, a dress, a pair of pants and a jumpsuit.

Apparel YE's is No! 300 yuan

This apparel collection is from 23-year-old designer Ye Qian, whose designs are getting increasingly popular among young consumers.

Neicun-recycled material

One day in April 2008, designer Wei Minghui was walking down the street when he spotted demolished advertising boards and LED boxes tossed aside as waste. Wei said to himself that he could make something out of those materials. His idea led to a design brand: Neicun, featuring bags, wallets and other items made from recycled materials.

His coasters (10 yuan for 5 pieces) are an exclusive design for BNC, made of used iLook magazines.



Photos provided by Han Yajun

The art of raw (and healthy!) eating

By Annie Wei

Last Saturday afternoon, a dozen expat women sat in the World Health Store to learn from Jennifer McClelland, a raw food chef and instructor from the US, on making green smoothies and chocolate truffles.

Eating healthy has always been a good mantra to live by; raw food cuisine is the latest trend for doing so.

McClelland, who grew up on an onion and mint farm, has always been interested in nutrition and fresh food. Eating "living" fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds in their unprocessed, unrefined and uncooked state preserves essential vitamins, enzymes and micronutrients the body needs for optimal health, she said. And preserving all this goodness in food is believed to be the answer to weight management and the prevention of many diseases.

"Raw food is not a diet but, rather, a lifestyle of eating a wide range of naturally raw plant-based foods," McClelland said. "I decided to live primarily on a raw food lifestyle for health and vitality."

McClelland said this concept isn't new. "Raw" foods have been growing naturally in the earth for thousands of years. But raw cuisine is a culinary art that turns whole foods into delicious soups, appetizers, entrees and desserts.

Preparation is often easy and

simple. "I have geared many of my meals around using a blender, and like to start the day off with a fruit and vegetable smoothie, which takes about 10 minutes to prepare – and that includes washing the blender," McClelland said. "One of my favorite fruits is the avocado, sprinkled with some cayenne pepper and organic mineral sea salt."

McClelland uses a lot of the same foods here as she does in the US, including organic spinach, kale and eggplant from De Run Wu Organic Farms to organic flaxseeds, cold-pressed oils, spirulina and raw chocolate from the World Health Store.

She also loves Chinese flavors and uses a lot of ginger, garlic, wolfberries and almonds in her dishes.

Opening a raw food class is something McClelland has wanted to do for a while. "When I discovered the health, energy and overall well being from a raw food lifestyle, I knew I wanted to share it," she said. "The classes are a lot of fun and attract many health nuts from this city."



Jennifer McClelland teaches how to prepare green smoothie at World Health Store's raw food class. Photo by Ding Chunhan

Tips for going raw food

More information can be found on the chef's website, jennifermcclelland.com. Here is an excerpt (with minor edits) from the site:

"People ask how they can start eating healthier. If your diet consists of mostly cooked, processed and refined foods, begin to add some fresh choices to each meal. You can start off with an apple a day and move to a fruit and vegetable smoothie. Adding a salad to your meal is easy. Gradually increase the amount of fresh you eat. Remember it does not have to be an all or nothing approach and slow changes are often the most long-lasting."

"People ask if eating raw food means eating cold dishes. With the use of a dehydrator, one can make warm soups, breads and other traditional items. If you do not have a food dehydrator, you can prepare recipes on a low temperature on the stove top or in the oven, but I find a dehydrator regulates the low temperature more evenly, preserving more of the nutrients."

"People ask how they can get enough protein in their diet. The body needs protein but how much is debatable. If you desire more protein in your diet, keep in mind that cooking destroys 50 percent of proteins in food. Some of the world's richest and most absorbable proteins are found in dark leafy green vegetables, seaweeds and blue-green algae. The blue-green algae spirulina is the world's richest source of protein and can be found in your local health food store."

Great green smoothie

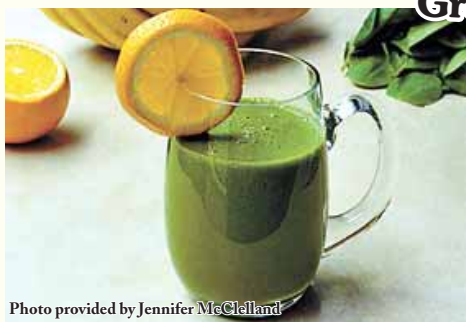


Photo provided by Jennifer McClelland

Green smoothies give one a cleaner intestinal tract, mental clarity, increased energy, healthier hair, suppler skin and strong nails. Remember to vary fruits and leafy greens to widen the range of nutrients. For many, starting with mostly fruit and then increasing the amount of leafy green is the best way to go.

1 Choose two or three fruits such as oranges, bananas, durian, mangoes, papayas, lemons, limes, apples, pears, pineapples, blue-

berries, raspberries, cranberries and grapes.

2 Choose two or three leafy greens such as romaine, kale, spinach, chard, collard greens, celery, bean sprouts, parsley, mint and baby bok choy.

Add supplements to the green smoothie like chlorella powder, spirulina, any type of green powder, ginger root, cinnamon, nutmeg, citrus rind, leftover nut or seed pulp.

Chocolate truffles in the raw

3 cups walnuts, dry
1 cup cashews, soaked for 2 hours, drained, rinsed
1 cup cocoa powder
3/4 cup water
1/4 cup raisins
1/4 cup honey
2 tablespoons coconut oil (optional)
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon salt
The walnuts can be finely

chopped or ground in the blender. Put aside in a bowl with the other dry ingredients. In the blender, add cashews and water until smooth. Then add raisins and blend again. Pour the mixture in a bowl with the dry ingredients and combine well. Flavors can be added such as coconut oil, mint oil and sweet orange. Place mixture in the freezer for one or two hours and then roll into small balls.



Photo provided by Jennifer McClelland

The next class – orange chocolate macaroons and raw vegan sushi rolls – is Saturday, October 23, 2-4 pm

Where: R 2152, floor 1, A section, north tower, Soho Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu
Tel: 5900 2209

Sunkissed Tanning Studio is located in the new culture street Wudaoying Hutong right between the Lama Temple and Andingmen. We offer imported German equipment and the best tanning lotions available on the market today. Why have pale Beijing-skin when you can look healthy all-year round?

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Experimental director soars again



Wang Chong

By Chu Meng

Experimental-theater director Wang Chong will present the China premiere of *Hamletmachine*, the most popular postmodern work of the 1970s, at the 2010 Youth Theater Festival next Tuesday.

The highlight of his latest work, Wang says, is the interpretation of the spirit of a surrealist Western drama through Peking Opera.

"I am directing a performance that explores the physicality of Peking Opera in a postmodern way," the 28-year-old Beijing native said during his troupe's final rehearsal at Fengchao Theater last Friday. "Both of my actors are Peking Opera performers, who are contributing something new to experimental theater."

Thanks to his English skills, Wang himself translated most of the original script, written in 1977 by Germany's Heiner Müller, described as "20th century theater's greatest living poet."

The drama, loosely based on Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, does not possess a conventional plot. The story is tied together through sequences of monologues, where Hamlet steps out of his role and reflects on being an actor.



Though difficult to understand and even harder to interpret into contemporary theater, Wang chose to take on one of Müller's "enigmatic, fragmentary piece" as it resonated with him.

Besides, Wang says, translation is never word-to-word replacement; rather, it is reproduction. "As an experimental-theater director, original scripts for me are just words," Wang says. "They are only platforms from which to launch myself.

I can fly high and wild, with great flexibility and in different forms ... and since no other person knows me better than myself, I enjoy doing (the translations) myself."

Wang is acknowledged as one of the most prolific artists of contemporary Chinese theater. His company Théâtre du Rêve Expérimental, established in 2008, has staged the Chinese versions of plays such as Sara Kane's *Crave*, Peter Handke's *Self-Accusation* and the mainland premiere of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*.

Wang's *e-Station*, which debuted at the 2008 Beijing Fringe Festival, toured North America last summer, making Théâtre du Rêve Expérimental the youngest Chinese theater group to tour internationally.

Hamletmachine

Where: Fengchao Theater, 200 meters east of Oriental Ginza, 12 Shizipo, Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: September 14-15, 7:30 pm

Admission: 120 yuan, 80 yuan

Tel: 8836 8265

Upcoming

Nightlife

The Cave Singers

This Seattle trio loves to play indie folk.

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu (inside Fenghuayuan drive-in cinema), Chaoyang District

When: September 16, 10 pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 13552276845

5 Friday, September 10

Exhibition

From the Three Shadows Collection – Works by Rongrong & Inri

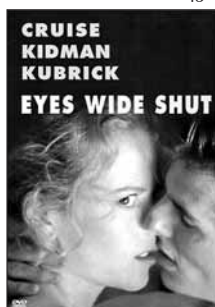
Lovers Rongrong and Inri have been painting about youth, passion and harmony in nature since they met in 1999.

Where: Three Shadows Photography Art Center, 155 Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 30, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 2663



Movie

Eyes Wide Shut (1999)

Manhattan physician Bill Harford becomes obsessed with the idea of having a fling after his wife admits to sexual fantasies about another man. She later chastises him for not admitting his own fantasies.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District

When: 7 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 8229 6153

Nightlife

Boi Akih

The jazz group has been influenced by Indonesian traditional music, Arabic rhythms and West African songs.

Where: Star Live, 3/F Tango, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 200 and 280 yuan

Tel: 6402 5080

6 Saturday, September 11

Exhibition

Instant Again – Yang Hongxun Solo Exhibition

Yang, a photo-journalist, captures the details of everyday life through Polaroid.

Where: Qianliang 32 Cafe, 32 Qianliang Hutong, Dongsu Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until October 3, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6404 6297

Movie



The Sea Inside (2004)

Former sailor Ramon Sampedro, a quadriplegic for 28 years, is in a court battle to defend his right to practice euthanasia, with the support

of an association that defends freedom of choice.

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, North section of Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 2 pm

Admission: 40 yuan, 30 yuan for students

Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8008

Zhang Huan Studio (2007) and Making of Semele (2009)

Two documentaries about the artist Zhang Huan. The first shows the process behind Zhang's art, featuring interviews and clips of him at work on his signature sculptures, ash paintings, wood carvings and prints. The second reveals Zhang as director and stage designer of the opera *Semele*, which was performed in Brussels last year and will be staged in Beijing later this year.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm

Admission: 15 yuan

Tel: 8459 9269

Nightlife



Backyard Surgeons

The Australian band, which has just released its latest EP, *Totally Numb*, plays fast, melodic punk rock.

Where: D-22, 242 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 10 pm

Admission: 40 yuan, 30 yuan for students

Tel: 6265 3177

The Last Chance for Young Love

The band Happy Avenue, formed by journalist Wu Hongfei in 1999, has just released its third album.

Where: Yungongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm

Admission: 40 yuan advance purchase, 60 yuan at the door, 50 yuan for students

Tel: 6404 2711

7 Sunday, September 12

Exhibition



Sleepless Tonight – Yan Shilin Solo Exhibition

Yan contemplates adulthood through his sculptures of children who look like aliens in another world.

Where: Faurschou Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until October 6, daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9916

Movie

Mon Oncle (My Uncle, 1958)

Monsieur Hulot's nephew grows up in a house where everything is fully automated. To minimize Hulot's influence on the boy, his brother-in-law gets Hulot a job at his plastics factory.

Where: French Cultural Center,

1/F Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 3 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6553 2627

Nightlife

Choir of Young Believers

The music of the Danish band, founded by singer-guitarist Jannis Noya Makrigiannis in 2006, is characterized by dark lyrics, folk melodies and orchestral instrumentation. It was named Best New Act at the 2009 Danish Music Awards.

Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 40 yuan for students, 60 yuan at the door
Tel: 64025080



(By He Jianwei)

Managing psoriasis through diet

By Li Zhixin

Women who frequently hit the bar for a beer may want to rethink their choice of beverage. A new study suggests that women who frequently drink beer have a higher chance of developing psoriasis, an irritating and persistent skin condition.

Beer linked to psoriasis in women

Researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School and Boston University tracked 82,869 women who had not initially been diagnosed with psoriasis from 1991 through 2005.

Over the course of the study, participants reported their alcohol consumption and whether a doctor had diagnosed them with psoriasis.

Researchers found that moderate amounts of beer seemed to increase the risk of psoriasis, with 2.3 drinks a week driving up the risk almost 80 percent. Drinking five beers a week more than doubled their risk of being diagnosed with this skin condition.

However, there appeared to be no connection with light beers and wines.

"If a woman would like to consume alcohol and if she has a family history of psoriasis, or known psoriasis in the past or for some other reason she might be predisposed to psoriasis, the alcohol of choice probably should not be non-light beer," said Dr. Abrar A. Qureshi, lead author of the article in the December issue of *Archives of Dermatology*.

Psoriasis, an autoimmune disorder affecting the skin, is a chronic disease that can cause red, scaly patches called psoriatic plaques to appear on the skin. This results in excessive skin production and inflammation.

Foods to avoid

Zhang Cang, a dermatologist at Beijing Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, says it's too soon to take these findings at face value.

"Foods don't actually cause psoriasis, although certain foods can worsen existing psoriasis," he said. "As an autoimmune disease, psoriasis is affected by foods that weaken the immune system or irritate the digestive tract."

1. Processed foods

Sugars and sodium in nearly all processed foods hinder healthy digestion, and products containing trans-fats tend to lead to inflammation. Fried foods are often a factor in flare-ups and can also worsen the condition of the skin.

2. Red meat and dairy

Patients report that cutting red meat and dairy from their diet mitigates psoriasis. Not only can the fats in such products irritate the intestines, but they contain arachidonic acid, which for some can cause inflammation.

3. Citrus and spices

Generally avoid hot spices, vinegar, pickles, chocolates and citrus fruits and their juices, as these products irritate digestion.

4. Alcohol

Alcohol is believed to be a trigger for psoriasis. Although some dermatologists allow psoriasis patients a moderate consumption of alcohol, it seems that even a small quantity of alcohol can cause flare-ups.

"Although avoiding these foods can be very helpful for patients with psoriasis, these diet changes cannot be used to replace any type of prescription that is necessary for the condition," Zhang said.

Prevention is the best medicine

Psoriasis can erupt anywhere on the body, but it most often occurs on the scalp, chest, back, elbows, knuckles and knees. If patients have a mild case, the patches may hardly be noticeable. Severe cases produce unsightly patches almost everywhere.

Psoriasis can also affect fingernails and toenails, making them appear pitted and discolored. It can even cause significant joint pain, a condition known as psoriatic arthritis.

While the exact cause of the disease remains unknown, the following tips can improve symptoms or help reduce the number of flare-ups.

1. Drink plenty of water.

Dehydration is a major trigger

for psoriasis. Try to drink at least half your body weight a day. By doing this you will help your body protect itself from this condition.

2. Keep your skin moist and supple. Any dryness will increase scaling, flaking and itching which further aggravate the condition. One of the best ways to lock in moisture is to apply a good moisturizer immediately after a bath. Regular use of moisturizers can help prevent the itch and pain of dry skin and reduce scaling and inflammation.

3. Don't bathe in water that is too hot or too cold. Extreme temperatures can trigger psoriasis. Set your water tempera-



CFP Photo

ture to a mild setting. Don't use shampoos and soaps with harsh chemicals, as they can damage the skin and cause psoriasis.

4. Leave your TV or computer to get some sun. The sun is a natural defense against this condition; so doctors often suggest moderate sunlight exposure to patients with psoriasis. "You will feel better and the sun is good for your skin. Just don't overdo it, because overexposure to the sun can actually cause the condition. If you spend a moderate amount of time in the sun, you will be fine," Zhang said.

5. Manage stress and anxiety. Stress has long been linked to the induction and exacerbation of all types of psoriasis.

Aerobic exercises such as walking, swimming and yoga can reduce the number of flare-ups.

6. Avoid cold, dry climates. Cold weather may worsen symptoms, while warm, humid weather and moderate sunlight may improve symptoms.

7. Avoid scratches and lacerations. Any injury to the skin in both involved and uninvolved areas can produce new psoriasis lesions by irritating the basal layer of the skin and switching on the spurring action of the epidermal cells.

Research shows that about 50 percent of people with psoriasis develop a psoriatic lesion at the site of a skin injury. Patients should carefully avoid any direct

injury to the skin. Scrubbing to remove the scales is a mistake, and can worsen the disease.

7. Stop smoking. Smoking may make you more likely to get psoriasis and may cause symptoms to persist and grow in intensity.

Many studies have found that pustular psoriasis of the palms and soles, a variant of psoriasis, is aggravated by smoking. Patients who quit smoking found their lesions cleared up quickly.

8. Try to avoid certain medicines. Beta-blockers and lithium has been found to worsen psoriasis symptoms. Tell your doctor that you have psoriasis before starting on any new medicine.

In advance of grand gathering, a new Guangzhou



By Zhang Dongya

A couple of decades ago, Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong Province, was criticized for not living up to its reputation as the "south gate of China."

The city has come a long way since. After rapid urbanization, it won the rights to host the 16th Asian Games, which will be held from November 12 to 27. Guangzhou is the second Chinese city to have earned this honor, following Beijing in 1990.

Spurred by the upcoming games, Guangzhou has undergone further development and beautification and is now praised as the "Oriental Manhattan."

A hub of new landmarks

Guangzhou's major changes are partially reflected in the work of photographer Xu Peiwu, who started taking photos of Guangzhou in 1995 and has held several exhibitions.

One of the most notable images in Xu's portfolio is of Zhujiang New Town, the city's central business district (CBD), which was planned and designed in 1992. Located on Guangzhou's central axis, it begins from Huangpu Road in the north and stretches south to Zhujiang River, and from Guangzhou Road in the west to the South China Expressway in the east. Its construction was considered symbolic of Guangzhou's ascension into the ranks of China's three biggest cities, along with Beijing and Shanghai.

In Xu's early works 15 years ago, the main road in today's CBD was only a broad street with few buildings around it. Now, high rises crowd the street, including seven landmark buildings, including the Guangzhou Center for the Performing Arts, the Guangdong Province Museum, the Guangzhou Library and a TV and sightseeing tower.

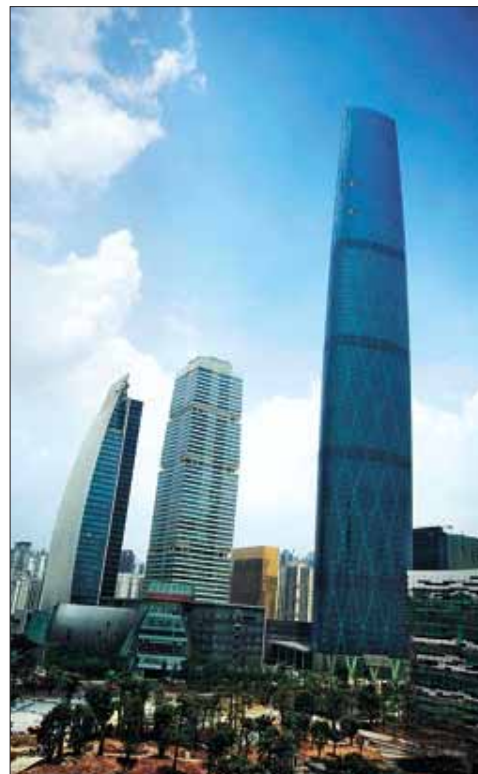
High-end hotels have also flocked in, among which is the Four Seasons Hotel, located on the 70th to 100th floors in CBD's International Finance Center in CBD, making it the highest hotel in the city.

Continued on page 21...

The outline of the Guangdong Museum



The panorama of Zhujiang River



New buldings stand tall along Zhujiang River



The view inside Guangdong Museum

Artful architecture

... continued from page 20

The highest TV tower

A new TV tower was completed last year on the south bank of Zhujiang River. At 610 meters tall, it is the highest tower in the world, as notarized by the China World Records Association.

The British company ARUP Qualification designed the tower to have a slender middle part, leading locals to nickname it "xiaomanyao" — slender waist. At a height of 424 meters is a revolving restaurant that serves both Chinese and Western food. Able to seat 400 people, the restaurant is an ideal place to get a good view of the entire city.

Sister towers along Zhujiang River

Opposite the new TV tower on the other side of the river is the 103-story West Tower, or Guangzhou International Finance Center. At 443 meters, it was designed by London-based Wilkinson Eyre Architects to have an exterior as shiny as crystal. On foggy days, the top of the tower disappears in the clouds and mist.

East of here is Zhujiang Park, a small bit of green within CBD where teahouses and Western restaurants were built amid trees.

Construction of East Tower, or Guangzhou Center, is expected to be finished in 2015.

'Impossible' buildings?

British-Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid submitted a design for the Guangzhou Center for the Performing Arts that was supposedly "impossible" to build. But she made it happen.

On the bank of Zhujiang River, the center looks like a giant gravel stone with a smooth and shiny body. It took six years and 10,000 tons of steel to complete this structure, with four stories underground and seven above, making it twice as large as Beijing's National Center for the Performing Arts.

The main theater has 1,800 seats, while the smaller one, which houses 400, is multifunctional and equipped with moveable seats.

Guangzhou Center for the Performing Arts

Where: 1 Zhujiang Xi Lu, Zhujiang New Town, Tianhe District, Guangzhou
Tel: 020-3839 2888

Only open during performances

Performances in September:

The Life Attitude of Two Dogs — a drama from Meng Jinghui (September 10-19)

The Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella — from Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo (September 28 – October 1)

Modern face for a new museum

Opened in May, the Guangdong Museum, with its modern exterior, is situated on the north bank of the Zhujiang River. It was designed by Hong Kong-based Rocco Design Architects.

The museum has collected more than 3,700 ancient artifacts, including a rare giant dinosaur fossil and a series of paintings called Dragon by Chen Rong of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127–1279).

The five-story building consists of four large exhibition halls with a collection of

more than 130,000 exhibits include paintings, porcelains and woodcarvings.

An exhibition hall of natural resources displays natural wonders including minerals, marine life and ancient life. One exhibition hall showcases some hundred types of Chinese herbal medicines that grow specifically in Guangdong.

Guangdong Museum

Where: 2 Zhujiang Dong Lu, Zhujiang New Town, Tianhe District, Guangzhou

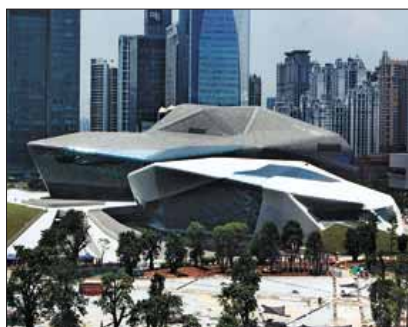
Tel: 020-3804 6886

Open: 9 am – 5 pm, daily except Monday

Admission: Free

Note: Visitors are required to purchase tickets at the south corner of the museum's second floor. The ticket window is open 8:50 am – 4 pm daily except Monday.

Getting there: It's a three-hour plane ride to Guangdong or a 21-hour train ride on the T15. Take subway line 3 or 5 to Zhujiang Xincheng Station and walk to Zhujiang New Town.



Guangzhou Center for the Performing Arts



Guangzhou TV Tower

Traditional mooncake producing tools displayed in Guangdong Museum
CFP Photos

Dining



Award-Winning Sunday Brunch "Fizztastic" Celebrates First Anniversary

The intimate and fun "fizztastic" offers culinary discovery and a hint of the forbidden in Vasco's at the Hilton Beijing Wangfujing every Sunday. To celebrate its second year as an award-winning Sunday Brunch, Vasco's is offering a special "3+1" promotion on September 19 and 26. Come in to get one free brunch for every three ordered by your group. On September 19, each table gets a take-home gift of one half bottle of Champagne Taittinger.

Where: Hilton Beijing Wangfujing, 8 Wangfujing Dong Jie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 5812 8888



Sumptuous Themed Lunch Buffets

Cafe 99's chef is preparing a variety of themed buffet to whet your appetite. Enjoy a culinary adventure every day of the week at Cafe 99: come Monday for the International Lunch Buffet, Tuesday for the Best of Asian Lunch Buffet, Wednesday for the Bavarian Lunch Buffet, Thursday for the Mediterranean Lunch Buffet, Friday for the Best of Beijing Lunch Buffet, Saturday for the Japanese and Seafood Lunch Buffet and Sunday for the American BBQ Lunch Buffet.

Where: Cafe 99, The Regent, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

When: daily 11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Cost: 188 yuan per person, subject to 15 percent surcharge

Tel: 8522 1789



Autumn Opening Ceremony

Autumn is here at VIC restaurant. Come discover Chef Christian Werdenberg's special seasonal dishes and beverages. Join the celebration and enjoy VIC's colorful buffet.

Where: Sofitel Hotel Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: September 11-26

Cost: 198 yuan (lunch buffet), 268 yuan (dinner buffet)

Tel: 8599 6666

Beerfest 2010

Eudora Station celebrates its 6th annual beer festival with a live performance of "Bump City" led by Greg Carroll. Festivities include an all-you-can-eat buffet and all-you-can-drink beer for 198 yuan. Competitions and games throughout the night accompany the music. Get a taste of Polynesian grass dancing as performed by Joyce Buangan. Call today to reserve a table.

Where: Eudora Station, 6 Fangyuan Xilu (opposite Lido Plaza), Chaoyang District
Tel: 6437 8813



Crab-licious

Indulge in Crab Season at Rouge & Valley Cafe. Enjoy mouthwatering hairy crabs specially prepared by our chefs. It is the best place to entertain business clients or partners over lunch and dinner. Chinese Master Chef He's recommendations will not fail to disappoint. Receive a complimentary hairy crab with each semi-buffet lunch and dinner order.

Where: Crown Plaza Beijing Zhongguancun, 106 Zhichun Lu, Haidian District

Cost: 118 yuan per person (semi-buffet lunch), 188 yuan per person (semi-buffet dinner) (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 5993 8888



Matthew McCool's Game

Aria's new chef, Matthew McCool, presents a selection of wild boar, guinea fowl, venison and white rabbits in stunningly-presented dishes, ideally paired with the house's recommended wines.

Where: Aria, China World Hotel Beijing, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: October 11-24

Tel: 6505 5838

Mid-Autumn Festival

To celebrate this traditional family reunion, bring your family and friends to the Royal Restaurant at Sunworld Dynasty Hotel, where chefs are offering set menus of exquisite Cantonese dishes and traditional mooncakes. Come savor the festive delicacies that symbolize happiness and prosperity.

Where: Sunworld Dynasty, 50 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: September 22

Cost: from 680 yuan per table for four to six persons, from 2,500 yuan per table for eight to 10 persons

Tel: 5816 8888 ext. 8288

Kerry Center's Mooncake Selection

Six boxes of mooncakes with various flavors and fillings are available. The white lotus with egg yolk, red bean and mixed nut fillings are relatively traditional, while the red wine with grape, dried scallop with XO sauce and pandan are more contemporary. Healthy choices include black sesame, black date with walnut, purple yam and low-sugar pumpkin. The collection includes a charity box of four moon cakes with lotus paste and egg yolk filling, priced at 138 yuan per box. Fifty yuan from each box sold will be donated to Dandelion School, the first charitable, non-profit middle school for migrant children in Beijing.

Where: Kerry Center Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6561 8833

Hotel



NBA superstar visits

Earlier this month, NBA star Pau Gasol came to Beijing and stayed at the Westin Beijing Chaoyang. During his stay, the hotel arranged an extra large "Heavenly" bed for him. He also had a party at Touch on the second floor of the hotel and met his Chinese fans.



Oxygen Club Membership

Join Oxygen Club now for an unprecedented, limited-time low-rate offer. Individual, family and corporate memberships are available.

Where: Hotel G, 7A Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

Cost: 18,000 yuan per person (individual — one adult), 26,000 yuan per card (family — two adults, two children), 15,000 yuan per person (corporate — four or more adults)

Tel: 156 9971 8889 (Raymond Li)

Aviation

Fly British Airways for a free ticket

British Airways business and leisure passengers who book its Beijing- or Shanghai-London return flights in the Club World business class by September 30 can get a free ticket using the 50,000 bonus BA Miles earned. The bonus miles can be used for tickets from Beijing or Shanghai to Hong Kong, Tokyo and Bangkok. Members can also choose to redeem an award flight from Beijing or Shanghai to New York or Sydney through this promotion. Frequent Club World travelers to Europe can choose to redeem a free one-way upgrade to first class using 40,000 BA Miles.

The promotional offer is valid for bookings through September 30 and for departures from Beijing or Shanghai before September 30.

Offer is open to British Airways Executive Club members only. For information and to book a ticket, visit britishairways.com/travel/home/public/en_cn.

(By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

A bank clerk ≠ a banker

By Annie Wei

Last Friday night, I went to have a drink with a high school friend, Liu Xiang, at Sanlitun. It had been 10 years since he was last in town.

After graduating from a Beijing university, Liu went abroad, studying and working his butt off in a US company. This fall, he flew back for an energy project.

"So, I have a surprise for you," he said on the phone.

When I got to Sanlitun, I stepped into a bar and saw Liu and Li Feifei.

"What? Is she my surprise?" I did not like hanging out with Li. She is a nice enough person, and pretty, except she is condescending to other women all the time.

What was worse, Liu was one of the boys we both had planned to conquer 15 years ago.

Now we were all grown up. At a rooftop bar with cocktails in hand, we talked about what happened to us in the past decade.

Li is a full-time housewife and mother of a two-year-old. She married an older, rich man and quit her job six years ago.

(Myself, I'm single and leading a normal life.) Liu enjoys his job and is engaged to a girl he met when he was in business school in the US.

"What does your fiancée do?"

Li asked.

"She is a banker," Liu said.

"Oh, I was a banker too."

"Really?" Liu was surprised. Li was street smart but never good at math.

"Which firm did you work for?"

Liu asked.

Li mentioned a name.

"I've heard of that bank, but I did not know it's an investment bank," Liu said. "Does it have an investment branch?"

"It did both," Li said.

"I know many people quit this kind of job because it's so exhausting," Liu said.

I was sitting opposite to them with my head buried in my shoulder, hoping I didn't hear what she said. As far as I knew, Li was never a banker – she might have been a bank clerk or an assistant to a bank manager many years ago. Also, she never stayed more than six months at her jobs.

"I quit it because it was boring," Li said. "Then I worked in media. I worked my way up to chief editor in six months. It was not challenging for me, and there's so little money working in media."

Then she turned to me and said, "Annie, you're still a journalist after 10 years, right?"

Ugh. I started hoping she would shut up and stop talking like a valley girl.

Well, Li wasn't completely lying. She did work at a magazine, except the editorial staff was no more than three people.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

1. Result from and result in

Professor Zhu Shida (ZS): Don't confuse these two phrases. Though they look somewhat similar, they are vastly different. "Result from" means "to be a result; follow as a consequence," while "result in" means "to have as a result; end." For instance, we have: Sickness often results from eating too much. If we change the subject-object order, we get another sentence: Eating too much often results in sickness. His failure results from his laziness. If we use the "result in" phrase, it becomes: His laziness results in his failure. I will give you another example: Many illnesses result from a lack of exercise. A lack of exercise results in many illnesses. Also: Such practice may result in the executive being sacked. The brutality resulted in as many as 300 deaths.

Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ): Excellent marks result from studying well. Excellent study habits should result in excellent grades.

2. Out of mix and out of fix

ZS: When "mix" is a noun and is used informally, it means "a muddled condition, a mess." It has nothing to do medicinal mixtures. When you say, "He gets out of a mix," it means he gets out of a muddled situation. I have an example here: The insurer's decision leaves Goldman Sachs out of the mix at a pivotal moment for the insurance company. A similar English phrase that may pose some confusion to Chinese learners is "out of fit." In this case, "fit" is also informal, meaning "a position hard to get out of; an awkward state of affairs." For example: The boy who cried, "Wolf!" got himself into a bad fix. If we get left on this wreck, we are in a fix. "Fix" may also mean "a fixed condition; repair," as in: They have elevators in public housing, and they are constantly getting out of fix. So, the two phrases have different nuances. We will have to be careful in making a choice in writing.

TBZ: I'm in a real fix because I seldom use either of these expressions. So, let's just leave them there before I get myself into a mix.

3. Who and whom

ZS: I find a growing number of people who take no care to use "whom" when it is in an objective case, especially in their conversations. A few days ago, I read in a newspaper a talk by a chief executive of a prestigious corporation in which there is such a sentence: I had a CEO, who I was very close to, and he just took me aside and gave me a really short instruction about it. Grammatically speaking, this "who" should be "whom." Let's analyze it in detail. It means: I had a CEO. I was very close to him. When you try to link up the two sentence, you will have to use the objective case of "who." It should be: I had a CEO, whom I was very close to, and he just took me aside and gave me a really short instruction about it. I think if we wish to write standard English, we, instead of being whimsical and casual, should have to observe this rule to show our standard. Right?

TBZ: Right. Also right that "whom" is difficult to use and may come across as being too formal in some situations. But think about it – if a chief executive (and all his speech-writers) can make this mistake and it's published in the paper, you should be very encouraged to speak out loudly and proudly in English conversation class, errors and all!

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Brevity is the soul of clarity as well

By Anthony Tao

Journalism school teaches that you should always try to write what you mean in the fewest words possible. This sign is a clear violation of that lesson.

"Anti-recording detective system" is simply "surveillance." I can see how the Chinese, which has the word *fan* ("opposite" – easily translated as "anti"), can be mistranslated, but in this case the blame isn't entirely on shoddy translation software. The original sign could have been less wordy.

Take the second line, for instance: you've already established that this building has surveillance, do you really need to say "this whole area" is under surveillance? Not really sure what the difference is.

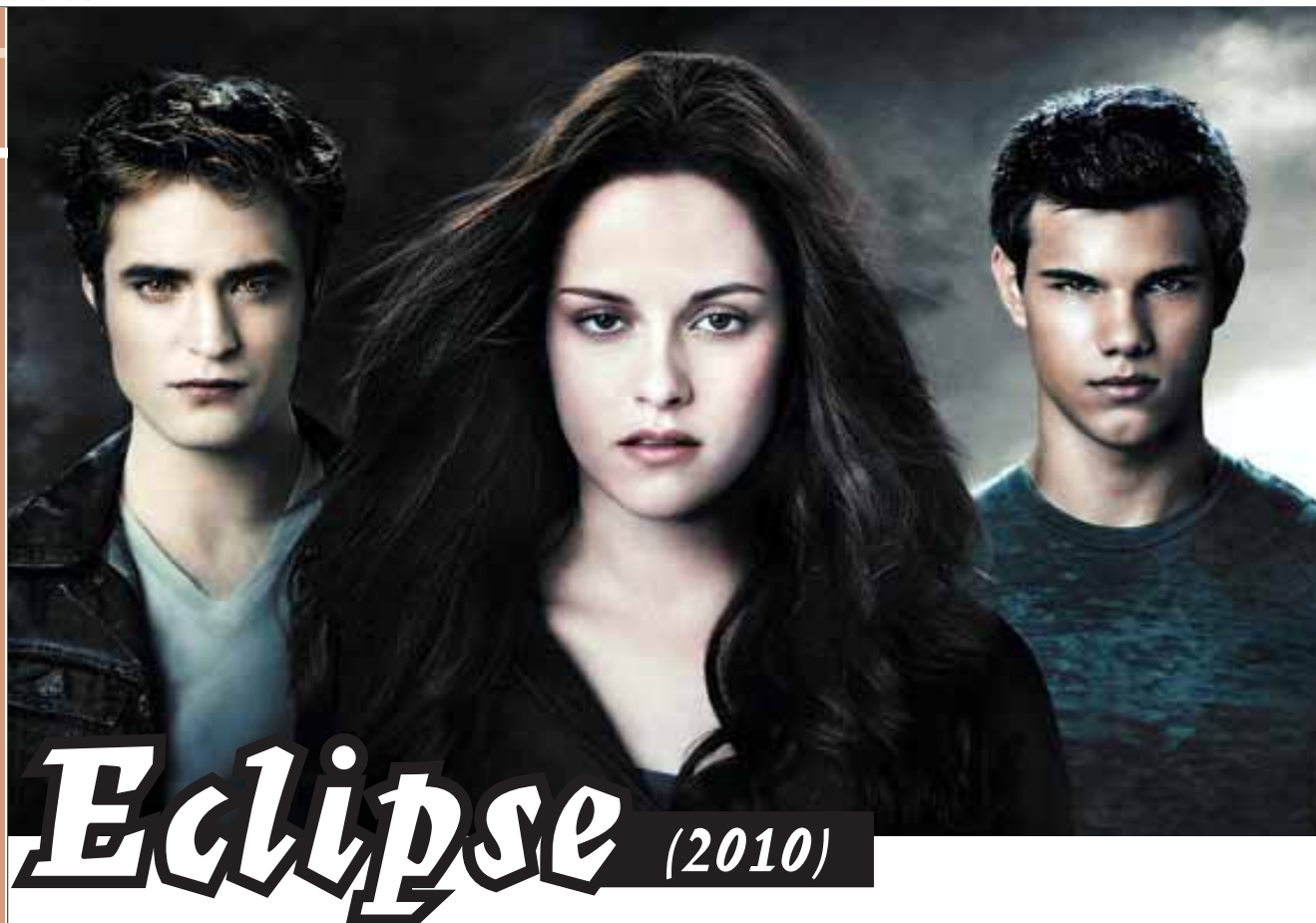
That makes the third line completely unnecessary. As long as people know surveillance exists, who's to tell them what they should or should not feel free to do? Would they really be anxious while consuming if they didn't think cameras were watching them?



So basically, everything on this sign can be whittled to this without any real meaning getting lost: "This building is under surveillance."

Done. Everyone's happier – the people writing the sign, the people reading the sign and the people translating it.

Consider this a lesson in brevity – though I've probably already rambled on a bit too long.



Eclipse (2010)

Movie of the week

This is the best of the three *Twilight* movies. It's rare that a movie will be as good as the original book, so if that is what you're looking for – look elsewhere.

That's not to say the movie isn't excellent. David Slade did an excellent job making the movie more dramatic and less cheesy than the previous two films that left many moviegoers wanting to gag at certain scenes.

This movie played more on the serious side of the young vampires, the werewolves and the Cullens than the cheesy love story and melodramatic scripts of the previous movies. Moviegoers get more insight into Jasper and Rosalie.

While there is much more going on in the book, David Slade directed this movie in such a way that we are able to see the different aspects of what this book has to offer without turning it into a feature-length confusion.

Synopsis

Bella once again finds herself in danger as Seattle is ravaged by a string of mysterious killings and a malicious vampire continues her quest for revenge. In the midst of it all, she is forced to choose between her love for Edward and her friendship with Jacob – knowing that her decision has the potential to begin a struggle between the vampires and werewolves. With her graduation quickly approaching, Bella is confronted with the most important decision of her life.

Scene 1: Bella and Edward at an open valley

Bella (B): Some say the world will end in fire. Some say in ice. From what I've tasted of desire, I hold with those who favor fire. But if I had to perish twice, I think I know enough of hate to say that, for destruction, ice is also great. And would suffice. You know, I've got an English final. I gotta focus.

Edward (E): Marry me.

B: No.

E: Marry me.

B: Change me.

E: OK, I will if you marry me, it's called a compromise.
B: It's just called **coercion** (1). It's not fair. Marriage is just ... is a piece of paper.

E: Where I am from, it's the way one says, "I love you."

B: Where I come from, at my age ... it's the way one says, "I just **got knocked up** (2)."

E: So, you're worried about what people will think.

B: You know, two out of three marriages end in divorce.

E: Well, I think you'll find the ... vampire-human divorce rate is a little lower. Just marry me.

B: I can't.

Scene 2: Bella and Jacob on a mountainside

B: Gosh, it's so pretty here.

Jacob (J): So, Alice is planning a big graduation party, which you're invited to.

B: Yeah, I figured that.

J: What? I just wanted to do

this differently. Smoother. But now I'm out of time.

B: To what?

J: You need to hear the truth, Bella. Understand all your options. You need to know that I'm in love with you, and I want you to choose me instead of him.

B: I thought you understood. I don't feel that way for you.

J: I don't **buy** it (3).

B: What don't you **buy**? That's how I feel.

J: You feel something else for me, you just won't admit it. So I'm not giving up. I'm gonna fight for you. Until your heart stops beating.

B: Well, then you're not gonna have to fight for long.

J: You're rushing into it because you're afraid you'll change your mind.

B: No, I'm not. I know what I want.

J: You wouldn't have to change for me, Bella. Or say goodbye to anybody. I can give you more than him. I mean, he probably can't even kiss you without hurting you. Feel that? Flesh and blood and warmth.

Scene 3: Bella and Edward at the Cullens'

E: Bella ... no.

B: You've said that you wanted me to have every human experience.

E: Not the ones that risk killing you.

B: You won't. And everyone says, once I'm changed ... all I'm gonna want is to slaughter the whole town.

E: That part doesn't last forever.

B: I want you. While I'm still me. While I still want you this way.

E: It's too dangerous.

B: Try ... just try. I'll go to some ridiculously expensive college and let you buy me a car. I'll marry you, just try.

E: Stop trying to take your clothes off.

B: Do you want to do that part?

E: Not tonight.

B: OK. I mean, you don't ... But, fine.

E: Believe me, I want to. I just want to be married to you first.

B: You really make me feel like I'm some sort of like a villain trying to ... steal your virtue or something.

E: It's not my virtue I'm concerned about.

B: Are you kidding?

E: It's just one rule I wanna leave unbroken. It might be too late for my soul, but I will protect yours. I know it's not a modern notion.

B: It's not modern.

E: It's ancient. I'm from a different era. Things were ... a lot less complicated. And if I met you back then, I would've **courted** (4) you. We'd have taken chaperoned strolls, or had iced tea on the porch. I may have stolen a kiss or two.

But only ... after asking your father's permission. I would've got down on one knee. And I would've presented you with a ring. This was my mother's. Isabella Swan. I promise to love you, every moment forever. And would you do me the extraordinary honor of marrying me?

B: Yes.



Vocabulary

1. **coercion**: using force to gain compliance

2. **get knocked up**: to become pregnant, usually unintentionally

3. **buy**: here it means to believe

4. **court sb**: to seek another's love
(By Huang Daohen)